

NOFA 2.0 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What costs will the state affiliate be responsible for covering as part of the program?

Answer: There is no cost to the state affiliate. All program expenses are covered by NEA.

If I am selected as one of the 12 fellows, will I be assigned to my home state?

Answer: Assignment to your home state is unlikely. While we will make every effort to place you with a state affiliate near your home state, placement cannot be guaranteed. Our goal is to match fellows with campaigns that best align with their skills and provide meaningful opportunities for professional growth as organizers.

What compensation will I receive during the program phases?

Answer: There is no compensation provided during Phase I or Phase II.

For Phase III, participants are required to take a leave of absence from their employer while remaining in paid status. NEA will reimburse the participant's school district for the participant's current salary and benefits. If this arrangement is not possible, NEA will work with the participant to provide compensation for lost income and help maintain health insurance coverage by covering COBRA costs. Please note that pension contributions cannot be reimbursed.

Do I need to resign from my governance positions?

Answer: Governance positions only need to be relinquished if you advance to Phase III. Any required resignation would become effective on August 1, 2027.

What is required to apply for the program?

Answer: Applicants should have a strong interest in pursuing staff work and a commitment to organizing. All candidates must receive approval from their state affiliate before being accepted into Phase I of the program. Advancement to Phase II and Phase III is determined by NEA.

What out-of-pocket expenses should I expect?

Answer: During Phases I and II, participants are responsible for personal expenses, including mileage and meals.

NEA will cover travel, lodging, and related expenses for the three-day training during Phase II, as well as all costs associated with the two-week training in Washington, DC. Upon entering Phase III, participants will receive a daily meal stipend, and NEA will cover housing and transportation expenses.

During Phase III, how often may I travel home?

Answer: During the three-month fellowship, NEA will reimburse travel expenses for up to two trips home per month. Any additional personal travel will be the participant's responsibility.

What if I have any additional questions?

Answer: For additional information, please contact **NOFA@nea.org**.