



Conservation Voters For Idaho  
EDUCATION FUND

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Conservation Voters for Idaho's Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program aims to increase diversity on boards and commissions by recruiting women, people of color, people who identify as LGBTQ+, and other underrepresented groups to serve on appointed boards and commissions.



## BUILDING POWER IN OUR COMMUNITIES

This six-month Fellowship Program is designed to:

- Develop community leaders to serve on public boards and commissions
- Increase the representative diversity on local boards and commissions
- Develop civic leadership skills and build policy expertise
- Provide one-on-one coaching with a mentor
- Train fellows in conservation policy, including but not limited to land use, clean energy, and development.

For more information and how to apply, contact  
Toni Belknap-Brinegar at [toni@cvidaho.org](mailto:toni@cvidaho.org) / 208.703.3063

## NOW RECRUITING FELLOWS:

- Program runs from January 2023 - July 2023.
- Applications open October 2022.
- 15-20 hours per month time requirement.
- Once-a-month meeting with mentor for personalized coaching.
- No previous experience in policy and/or conservation required.



## OBJECTIVES:

- 100% percent of fellows will apply to serve on a local board or commission;
- 50% of Spring 2022 fellows will return to serve as mentors and trainers for the 2023 class;
- 100% will work with a mentor who will help them navigate successful board and commission service, as well as build their networks of people and resources.

Learn more about Conservation Voters for Idaho Education Fund at  
[cvidaho.org/boards-and-commissions](http://cvidaho.org/boards-and-commissions)



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# BOARDS & COMMISSIONS FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FAQs

**Q: What do public boards and commissions do?**

A: Each public body (city, county, state, school or municipal district) has citizen boards and commissions that make recommendations and, sometimes, policy decisions. Some of these boards are advisory in nature and some make important zoning and land use decisions. The work of these bodies informs policy decisions, the implementation of policies and oversight of public funds.

**Q: Who is eligible to participate in the Boards and Commissions Fellowship program?**

A: Recruitment will focus on individuals who are ready and motivated to make change in their home communities. Recruitment will include: individuals from the environmental movement organizations and allied organizations with a focus on women and people of color residing in Idaho. Individuals with an intention to stay in Idaho and make change for the betterment of Idahoans will be given preference.

**Q: What information will be included in the Fellowship?**

Learning about conservation and environmental issues and the importance of these protections will be presented during each training session. Fellows will be encouraged to explore a conservation mindset and carry these issues forward when appointed to their chosen board or commission. Trainings will include presentations about parliamentary procedure, how decisions are made, public meeting law, involving community in decisions, conflict management and other topics pertinent to being an informed board member or commissioner.

**Q: What is the time commitment for leaders in the program?**

A: The fellowship is a six-month program, with eight hours of training monthly, coaching sessions with their chosen Mentor and homework that is to be completed between sessions. Additionally, there is time involved in the process of applying to serve on a board or commission, which is expected of each BCFP fellow. The 2023 cohort will begin in January 2023 and run through June 2023 with a final graduation ceremony held in July 2023.

**Q: Does it cost anything to participate in the fellowship?**

A: No.

**Q: Is the fellowship paid?**

A: No, participation is voluntary. Fellows will receive modest stipends that are intended to help with child care and transportation costs, to make participation accessible to everyone.

**Q: What happens after fellows complete the program?**

A: We will continue to work with graduates of the program to gain appointment to a board or commission, and to support them once appointed. Alumni will be encouraged to support future cohorts by becoming mentors, volunteering to present at future BCFP trainings or assisting the new Fellows with networking so they may gain appointment to their chosen board or commission.

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