



## **Civic Engagement Fellow (Southeast Michigan)**

### **Summary:**

The Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO is seeking a Civic Engagement Fellow to help our team build out local worker and civic engagement campaigns. The anticipated timeframe for the fellowship is June 2020 to October 2020 with the option to extend based on mutual agreement and the host organization's resources.

### **About APALA:**

Founded in 1992, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA), AFL-CIO is the first and only national organization of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) union members and allies advancing worker, immigrant, and civil rights. Backed with strong support of the AFL-CIO, APALA has 23 chapters and pre-chapters in 16 states and a national office in Washington, D.C. In 2011 to ensure broader education, civic engagement, and capacity building for our communities, APALA established the Institute for Asian Pacific American Leadership & Advancement (IAPALA) as a 501(c)3. To achieve our mission, we build power by:

- Organizing members into unions, develop a pipeline of labor leaders, and build political power for our community;
- Educating AAPI workers and allies about the labor movement, principles of trade unionism, and collective bargaining, as well as providing a vehicle for AAPI issues and concerns;
- Activating our chapters across the country to advance social, racial, and economic justice through state-based campaigns; and
- Representing the voice of AAPI workers on coalitions within the labor community and more broadly in the civil rights, AAPI, and racial justice communities.

### **About RVAAF:**

Rising Voices of Asian American Families, a project of Progress Michigan Education Fund, was founded in April of 2019. Rising Voices of Asian American Families (RVAAF) was formed in 2019 and seeks to increase the civic participation of Asian Americans in Michigan. As one of the fastest growing electorates in the United States and the largest growing racial group in Michigan, RVAAF was created to fill a gap in the organizing in Michigan. Current models of organizing and civic engagement take a one-size-fits-all approach that fails to take into consideration the unique cultural contexts of various Asian American communities.

Few, if any, existing organizations are dedicated to organizing Asian American women, lifting up their voices, or focusing on issues affecting Asian American women and families. We believe women (cis, trans, femme-identifying people) and young people hold vitally important perspectives and relationships within our community and are key to organizing collective power.

We are bridging this gap by centering the voices of those who have been excluded and valuing cultural competence and humility in our work.

## **Job Description**

### **About the Position**

The Civic Engagement Fellows will advance our programs to build capacity with local APALA chapters in order to execute worker and civic engagement organizing campaigns. This role will have high-level exposure to an exciting world of labor and community organizing, community advocacy, and nonprofit coalitions. The Southeast Michigan fellow will be housed at Rising Voices of Asian American Families.

### **Responsibilities include:**

- Working with local labor, chapter leaders, and community partners to design and execute organizing campaigns around workers rights and civic engagement
- Recruiting and engaging local APALA members into campaigns
- Recruiting and training volunteers that will engage community members around campaign efforts
- Strengthening AAPI participating in existing and future campaigns in conjunction with local labor unions
- Working with local partners to uphold and strengthen collaborations with other AAPI organizations and networks
- Tracking and data entering work to ensure data driven campaigns
- Assisting in scheduling, planning, organizing, and outreach for events in the AAPI community

### **About the Candidate**

#### **What we're looking for:**

- Highly organized, detail oriented self-starter who can drive projects that result in high quality work in a timely manner: You know how to think ahead, prioritize your workload, and prepare for challenges. You enjoy challenges and having a full plate but also know how to manage up when the workload needs to be reprioritized.
- Outcomes-oriented person who is creative about your work, loves to learn more about the movement, and is always asking questions. You are usually the kind of person who has a new idea for how to run the program better and appreciates constructive feedback from team members.
- Deep commitment to racial, social, and economic justice. You don't just ask, "who's not at the table?" but "why aren't they at the table and how can we fix it?"

- Natural organizer who enjoys talking to members, community members, board members, allies, and other stakeholders. People go to you when they want to know who to work with on a specific campaign or how they can get help with a project.
- Someone who enjoys a respectful, positive, collaborative, and flexible work environment. The team is small but nimble. We celebrate shared successes and empower each other to be impactful in our work.
- Someone that is disciplined enough to drive their work after being given guidance on overall outcomes.

### **Job Requirements:**

- Experience organizing in civic engagement and/or organizing campaigns, especially in economic justice and worker issues
- Experience in economic justice or labor organizations
- Knowledge of and experience working in the Asian American/Pacific Islander community: demonstrated cultural competence and ability to interact with the AAPI community with humility and respect
- Demonstrated passion for working in low-income, working class, and communities of color around social, economic, and racial justice.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills; a relatable and persuasive communicator/organizer with excellent interpersonal skills
- Nice to have but not necessary:
  - Asian language skills, especially: Bangla, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese
  - Experience working in a local or state-based organization
  - Experience working in coalitions
  - Experience with technology like Voter Activation Network, EveryAction, Hustle

### **Compensation:**

Hourly rate of \$17.00/hour, weekly maximum of 40 hours. Benefits include health insurance and a monthly cell phone stipend.

Submit cover letter and resume with 2 references (at least one work reference) to: [apala\(at\)apalanet\(dot\)org](mailto:apala(at)apalanet(dot)org) cc'ing [contact\(at\)risingvoicesaaf\(dot\)org](mailto:contact(at)risingvoicesaaf(dot)org). Applications are rolling until May 15th.

APALA is an equal opportunity employer. We strongly encourage youth, people of color, women, LGBTQ, and folks with disabilities to apply. The privacy of applicants will be respected and preserved until the last phase of the hiring process. References will be checked during finalist interviews, with candidate knowledge.