

Capitol Pathways

Everyone should have access to opportunities in public service and policy, and our government should be representative of our communities.

About our program

Capitol Pathways is a paid spring internship program for college students of color. With the long-term goal of making Minnesota state government more representative of our diverse communities, our program provides legislative and professional development training alongside an immersive hands-on internship experience with organizations doing work at or around the Capitol during the legislative session.

We provide:

Student recruitment and placement

- Recruitment of students from colleges and universities in Minnesota
- Coordination of selected students with host organizations for interviews
- Finalize student and host placement based on interest and fit

Training

- Four monthly hour-long cohort meetings for work readiness and professional development training
- Week-long technical legislative training that helps build a foundational understanding of the legislative process

Support

- Mentorship from program alumni throughout the internship period
- Access to program alumni network for additional support and resources
- Ongoing support from program staff

Intern hosts provide:

Professional work experience

- A minimum of 10 hours per week of meaningful work for an intern under one host supervisor who provides mentoring and support
- Compensation at a minimum of \$15/hour. Host office pay intern directly.

Policy exposure

- Frequent visits to the Capitol to enrich interns' policy experience
- Immersion in organization's policy work and professional working environment
- Network-building for interns, building connections to policy professionals in and around the Capitol

Program costs

Intern Salary: \$2,760

\$15 x 10 hours (min) x 16 weeks x 15% estimated payroll tax

Administration & Training: \$500 per intern

TOTAL COST: \$3,260

Save the date!

Application to host a student for the 2020 legislative session opens on October 1st!



Meaningful work experience for interns

This internship is meant to give college students of color exposure to policy work and firsthand experience with the legislature. Interns should support your organization's work as needed and be involved in session preparations.



Some examples of work to assign include:

- Attend and take notes during legislative and committee hearings
- Assist in scheduling, preparation, and staffing meetings & events
- Track, research, and summarize bills
- Networking opportunities, such as informational interviews and job shadowing



"We have been proud to be a Capitol Pathways partner agency from the beginning. The talented individuals we've recruited over four years have been deeply helpful to our legislative team and get real work done."

— Anthony Alongi, Manager for Policy and Planning,
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Program Timeline

2019

September	Host recruitment
September 24	Host info session I
October 1	Host application opens
October 9 & 24	Host info sessions II & III
October 31	Host application closes
November 4	Student application opens
November 22	Student application closes
December 2 - 16	Host & student interviews
December 20	Hosts & students notified of final placement

2020

January	Host orientation & race training (date TBD)
February 3	First day of internship program
February 11	First day of 2020 legislative session
May 18	Last day of 2020 legislative session
May 22	Last day of internship program (tentative date)
June 11	End of Session Celebration (tentative date)

Student Cohort Meeting Dates

(Tentative, location details to come.)

- **Orientation and legislative training week:** January 7 - 11, 2020
- **Cohort Meeting 1:** February 21, 2020
- **Cohort Meeting 2:** March 20, 2020
- **Cohort Meeting 3:** April 17, 2020
- **Cohort Meeting 4:** May 15, 2020

Dates & schedule subject to change. Go to citizensleague.org/CapitolPathways for the most up-to-date information.

Questions?

Contact Capitol Pathways Program Manager Kalia Xiong at kxiong@citizensleague.org, or 651-289-1075