



EQUALITY CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE COMCAST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Building a State of Equality

Equality California Institute (EQCAI) educates lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people and the public at large about issues impacting the LGBT community and our allies in order to advance social change and public policy reforms that positively impact the lives of LGBT Californians. Established in 2000, EQCAI organizes and empowers individuals, communities, and allied groups to work proactively for fairness, equality, and justice.



Our Work

The Equality California Institute spearheads several exciting statewide initiatives. Health Happens with Equality is a groundbreaking project, supported by The California Endowment, to improve healthcare access for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Californians, specifically reaching out to those members of our community who have historically been uninsured, underinsured, or underserved by insurers and the medical community. Equality California Institute conducted LGBT cultural competency trainings for hundreds of clinic staff in Bakersfield, Fresno, Madera County, and elsewhere across the state and partnered with local organizations including Gay Central Valley, the Dolores Huerta Foundation, and The Gay & Lesbian Center of Bakersfield to hold town halls across the region.

EQCAI's groundbreaking Fair Share for Equality initiative works to educate legislators, policy makers, and the broader community on the health and well-being disparities facing California's LGBT community and how best to address them through allocation of budgetary resources, program development, coalition building, and community outreach.

In partnership with the Transgender Law Center, EQCAI created a statewide coalition to launch a comprehensive Transgender Public Education Campaign to promote compassion, respect, and kindness to ensure that transgender people receive the respect they deserve as positive and contributing members of our communities across California.

Equality California, EQCAI's sister organization, is the largest statewide LGBT civil rights organization focused on creating a fair and just society through advocacy, electoral outreach, education, and mobilization. EQCA's mission is to achieve and maintain full and lasting equality, acceptance, and social justice for all people in our diverse LGBT communities, inside and outside of California. Over the past decade, Equality California has partnered with a broad alliance of LGBT people, educators, government officials, communities of color and faith, labor business, and social justice communities to strategically move California from a state with extremely limited legal protections for LGBT people to a state with some of the most comprehensive human rights protections in the nation. Equality California, together with its allies, has successfully sponsored 118 pieces of pro-equality legislation and continues to advance equality and the health and well-being of LGBT people through advocacy, electoral work, public education, and community empowerment.



The Comcast Fellowship Program

Through a generous grant from the Comcast Foundation and in partnership with the California LGBT Legislative Caucus, EQCAI is sponsoring a four-week intensive fellowship program for six (6) students who have completed at least their first year of studies at college or university. The program will begin on **Monday, June 26, 2017** and will end on **Friday, July 21, 2017**. The deadline to apply is **April 7, 2017**. See “Application Requirements” for instructions.

Participants will gain valuable insight and experience that includes:

- Placement in a Sacramento legislative office as an intern in a role allowing for first-hand experience in the state legislative and budget process;
- Opportunities for close interaction and discussions with leading state policy makers;
- Training on “issues-based organizing” and factors/strategies influencing policy makers; and
- Volunteerism in a leadership capacity during non-work hours.

What the Fellowship Offers

Stipend: Fellows will each receive a stipend of \$3,000 for the four-week period. These funds will be provided in four (4) installments as part of successful completion of components of the program.

Work Placement: The fellows will be placed in a legislative office in Sacramento for four (4) weeks and will be assigned mentors that support the fellows’ work.

Interactions with State Leaders: Through EQCAI partners, fellows will have the opportunity to engage key leaders in various sectors of California’s life and culture. Site visits and informal gatherings will be designed to build community and expand the fellows’ leadership and support network.

Leadership Development & Training: The fellows will receive exposure to the inner workings of California government, the factors influencing policy makers, and current and future policy issues facing California.

Qualifications to Apply

Applicants must fulfill the following requirements:

- You have demonstrated leadership in your community. Previous participation in Queer Youth Advocacy Day is preferred but not required.
- You have completed at least your first year of college and will be returning to studies as a full time undergraduate at an accredited college or university.
- You are committed to being in Sacramento from Monday, June 26 through Friday, July 21 and to fulfilling all the requirements of the program. Weekend travel during the fellowship is strongly discouraged and will only be considered prior to the start of the program on a case-by-case basis.



2017 Application and Fellowship Timeline

Thursday, January 26, 2017	Application available
Friday, April 7, 2017	Deadline for applications to be received by email or fax (see "Application Requirements" for instructions)
Wednesday, April 26, 2017	Announcement of EQCAI Comcast Fellowship Class of Summer 2017
Monday, June 26, 2017	Orientation, placement in legislative offices, and beginning of curriculum and training
Friday, July 21, 2017	End of legislative placements, curriculum, and training

Please note that this fellowship is an intensive four-week program with strategically planned activities involving a number of important people. Fellows will have a tightly-scheduled calendar for the duration of the program, and free time may be limited.





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Application Requirements

All applicants must submit the following materials by the application deadline:

- 2017 Application Form and responses to two essay questions, each limited to one page
- A resume (not to exceed one page) that lists work, extracurricular, and volunteer experience
- One letter of recommendation from a community leader and/or college/university faculty/staff. The letter of recommendation may be submitted separately or combined with the rest of your materials but must be received by the deadline.
- A copy of *either* (1) an official college/university transcript or (2) a computer generated, online transcript that must include the name of the school and your name.

Applications must be RECEIVED no later than **6pm on April 7, 2017** by email:

Equality California Institute
Attention: Comcast Fellowship
Email: leadership@eqca.org

Please note the following additional information and instructions:

- Failure to provide any of the above material may disqualify your application from review.
- It is your responsibility to make a copy of your completed application for your records.
- If you mail your materials, you must ensure that all the required materials are mailed with sufficient time to be received by EQCAI by **6pm on April 7, 2017**.
- If you have any questions, please contact **Tami Martin** by e-mail using "*EQCAI Comcast Fellowship*" in the subject line, at leadership@eqca.org.



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2017 Application Form

Date: _____

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Address: _____

(City/Zip Code): _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birth Date: _____ Hometown: _____

College/University: _____

Year in School: _____ Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Major: _____ Degree Goal: _____

What year did you participate in Queer Youth Advocacy Day (if applicable): _____

Which of these best describes your identity? (You may indicate more than one)

- | | | | |
|----------|------|-------------|--------------|
| Female | Male | Transgender | Queer |
| Bisexual | Gay | Lesbian | Heterosexual |

Other: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____

I certify that all the information provided in this form and in this submission of materials is accurate, that I meet the criteria laid out for this program, and that EQCAI may verify any information I have provided. I also understand and agree to abide by EQCAI student participation, student expectation and student behavior rules should I be accepted to participate in this program. I give my permission to EQCAI to release information contained in this application to agencies, colleges or universities in order to provide me with information on graduate or professional schools, financial aid, student services, or career opportunities. I understand that EQCAI will strive to keep all personal information confidential. I also give permission to EQCAI to take photographs of me or video tape me during program sponsored activities and understand that these photographs and video may be used for presentations, publicity materials, and overall promotion of the program.

Signature _____ Date _____



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Essay Questions

Please provide answers to the essay questions below. Each answer should be typed, double-spaced, and one page or less.

- Expectation of Fellowship Experience

What do you hope to gain from the EQCAI Comcast Fellowship Program experience? What are your long-term career goals and how will you use this opportunity to reach them?

- Community Needs in California Today

What are the most pressing issues and needs for the LGBT community in California today? What are the most pressing issues facing California in the future and how are the needs of the LGBT community related to these larger issues?