

ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP

Organizational Summary

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is an advocacy coalition of over 70 homeless and housing service providers, and allied member organizations committed to ending homelessness in Minnesota through policy change. Founded in 1984, we are grounded in our core values of collaboration, community, and achievement. We strive to do all of our work through an equity lens by embedding the variety of lived experiences and perspectives of our team, stakeholders, and community partners into the work we do. As a nonpartisan, nonprofit, statewide coalition, MCH is uniquely positioned to advance policy change at the State Capitol. You can see recent legislative outcomes on our website: www.mnhomelesscoalition.org

Fellowship Summary

This fellowship is exclusively for people with lived experience of homelessness. Homelessness disproportionately hurts Black, Indigenous, People of Color and LGBTQIA+ people. We believe that these communities, and anyone who has experienced homelessness, are the experts and must be centered in the work we do together. We will not be able to end homelessness without these communities identifying the issues, solutions, and making decisions. We recognize that marginalized groups have different access to employment and job advancement and believe strongly in leadership development and lifting up the voices of non-traditional leadership. We will work with the right candidates to develop the necessary skills to be successful in this fellowship, including a budget for personal training. Hence, we strongly encourage applications from people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities to apply.

MCH is looking to add **4 Fellows with lived experience of homelessness** to the team, with an estimated 10 hours of work per week from September 2025 through August 2027. There are four areas in which the fellows can specialize:

Engagement: Responsible for ensuring MCH is developing, strengthening and tracking our relationships. This role will have the most interaction with advocates, including planning and executing ways for advocates to be involved in the entire legislative process. This role is also responsible for ensuring we have both quantity and quality advocates that are active with our advocacy.

Policy: Responsible for ensuring MCH turns community driven solutions into legislation. This role will have the most interaction at the Capitol, including planning and executing a path forward to ensure the MCH Policy Agenda has the highest possible chance to succeed. This role is also responsible for providing ways for advocate leaders to visit with lawmakers.

Communications: Responsible for ensuring MCH is informing advocates of what MCH has done, is currently doing and will do in the future. This role will have the most interaction in creating content and materials that are

applicable to advocates and legislators. This role is also responsible for providing ways for advocates to engage in various communications outlets.

Administrative and/or Operations: Responsible for learning the inner workings of nonprofit administration and nonprofit finance. This role will work closely with the Director of Operations as they learn how to do bookkeeping, stay up to date on staffing policies, and have a holistic view of what it means to work behind the scenes so advocacy work can be successful.

Cohort 1 Fellows Feedback on what to Expect

- This Fellowship is for existing leaders that want to sharpen skills and look at a career in advocacy. This includes behind the scenes work and public facing work
- You will identify and develop career goals which align with the Fellowship experience and tasks
- This fellowship is a learning experience - expect to step out of your comfort zone and experience discomfort, challenges and adversity.
- Expect periods of downtime that might require you to be proactive and seek out opportunities to advance your own learning/growth.
- This Fellowship will let you see why programs and systems are so complicated, allowing you to turn issues into solutions.
- Each person's experience in the Fellowship will look differently. This is intentional due to the Fellowship leaning into each individual's unique qualities.
- Be aware that advocacy can be very addicting! This comes with highs and lows that includes a sense of pride with the highs and potentially a crash with the lows.
- Flexibility, especially during the legislative session, is essential as we have no control over the legislative schedule.

Location

Although the majority of the duties can be performed remotely, occasional travel will be required. MCH understands that each person's ability to travel will differ so access to funds or other resources can include, but are not limited to, carpooling, mileage, hotel fees, and a travel budget. Fellow(s) specializing in policy should anticipate regularly visiting the State Capitol in Saint Paul during the legislative session. Fellow(s) specializing in engagement may be required to travel within their local community to engage with community members and advocates. All fellows will be strongly encouraged to attend the MCH Annual Conference in Rochester (Oct 1 & 2, 2025) and are required to attend Homeless Day on the Hill in St. Paul (exact date TBD but in early or mid March).

Compensation/Benefits/Other Information

Fellows will be paid \$1,050/month, receive technology assistance, have access to Housing Crisis Funds, a training budget, and travel funds. Fellowship hours can be flexible depending on the scope of work being done, but fellows should anticipate attending meetings during standard business hours.

Desirable Qualifications and Experience

The main priority qualifications are:

- Lived experience of homelessness is a requirement for the fellowship.
- A deep passion for ending homelessness and ensuring that advocacy happens in a community-driven way.
- A track record of involvement in ending homelessness. This fellowship is for enhancing and building new skills for existing leaders.

Additional qualifications that are not required but will be taken into consideration:

- Effective written and verbal communication skills and ability to present to diverse audiences, specifically racially, ethnically, and socioeconomically diverse communities.
- An understanding of institutional and structural racism and bias and their impact on communities.
- Ability to keep electronic records of organizing and advocacy efforts in order to ensure relationships are built and maintained within MCH.
- Experience with Zoom and Google Suite.

Process for applying:

Step 1: Complete a [Letter of Interest](#) by July 6th, 11:59pm.

Step 2: MCH will reach out if you are selected to formally apply. You will receive an email with a link to the application.

Step 3: MCH will select who will be invited to do interviews with the MCH Team (staff and Cohort 1 Fellows).

Step 4: Once interviews are completed, MCH will reach out with any additional next steps.

Step 5: The first Fellowship meeting with the new cohort will take place the week of September 15. The exact date is tbd and based on Fellows availability.

If you are considering applying and have questions about the fellowship , please contact matt@mnhomelesscoalition.org.

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless encourages applications from Black, Indigenous, People of Color, Persons with Disabilities, LGBTQIA+ individuals, women, and individuals with lived experience of homelessness.