Make a Difference While Launching Your Career in Sustainability!

CivicSpark is Governor Brown’s Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to building capacity for local governments to address climate change. CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research.

The CivicSpark Fellowship offers recent college graduates with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the sustainability field, attend regular trainings for technical skills building and professional development, and develop a strong network, all while creating a lasting difference in local communities. Fellows serve for 11 months, implementing critical climate change mitigation and adaptation projects throughout the state of California on a range of tasks from data collection and analysis, to community outreach, to report writing and presenting.

Our Model

**Gap Assessments**
To build understanding of and engagement with community partners, fellows start by reviewing key documents and interviewing staff.

**Service Projects**
The majority of the CivicSpark fellowship involves implementing specific climate projects that reflect the goals of the communities being served.

**Volunteer Engagement**
In parallel with a service project, fellows will have the opportunity to develop and lead a volunteer engagement project to increase local climate action.

**Transitioning Expertise**
Fellows’ service will conclude with a transitional activity designed to provide training to staff or share project results with key stakeholders.

Our Regions

CivicSpark fellows are organized in regional teams throughout the state of California.

1. North Coast
2. Sierra Nevada
3. Sacramento
4. San Francisco Bay Area
5. Central Coast
6. San Joaquin Valley
7. Los Angeles
8. Southern California

Each regional team consists of 3-7 CivicSpark fellows and 1 regional coordinator (half-time senior project managers who provide supervision and mentorship). Fellows also receive support from the Local Government Commission, the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, and a regional partner.

2016-17 Calendar

- **May 25, 2016**
  Fellow applications open.
- **July 15, 2016**
  Priority deadline 1 to submit fellow applications.
- **August 15, 2016**
  Priority deadline 2 to submit fellow applications.
- **October 1, 2016**
  Fellows are hired.
- **Early October**
  Fellow orientation takes place.
- **Mid October**
  Local projects get underway.
2015-16 Project Examples

Climate Change

Climate Action Plan Implementation:
Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Union City, Walnut Creek, the Sierra Nevadas, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County.

Water

Regional Resiliency in the Sierras:
Supporting water/energy system improvements and providing drought training for local government staff to support water-related resiliency initiatives in the region.

Transportation

Regional EV and Fuel Cells:
Supporting the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles and other alternative vehicle fuels to develop a robust market for alternative fuels in the broader North Coast region.
High Speed Rail Vulnerability Assessment:
Identifying specific climate risks and performing a quantitative assessment of the impacts on high-speed rail assets and future operations.

“\( \text{I personally feel that CivicSpark has opened an endless collection of doors into many different sectors of society. I truly feel like we are strengthening communities--not single-handedly, but as a collective group of passionate people working to get things done.} \)"

Kriselda Bautista, Sierra Nevada CivicSpark Fellow

Benefits

- $14,000 Living Allowance (before taxes) spread evenly over 11 months
- $5,775 Segal Education Award
- Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and payment of interest accrued during service
- Health insurance
- Childcare assistance to qualifying fellows, paid to an eligible provider of your choice
- Significant professional development training
- Network development with regional and statewide contacts in the climate protection field
- Valuable experience in the sustainability field and the local government sector
- Connection to a network of hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps Alums

Qualifications

- A 4-year degree in an environmentally related field and one year of relevant experience
- Experience with California climate change policies and practices (mitigation and/or adaptation related)
- Experience with local government operations and structures, especially as they relate to climate protection
- Good communications and teamwork skills, some experience with outreach preferred
- Capability to work in a professional office setting
- Comfort with quantitative work, including data collection and analysis
- Candidates must complete a DOJ, state, and NSOPR background check prior to service

Contact

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Learn more at www.civicspark.lgc.org/join-civicspark/fellow.