

POLICY FELLOWS

Recommendation Instructions

2024-2025

Thank you for your willingness to write a letter in support of an applicant for the Policy Fellows program at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Since we do not conduct personal interviews with candidates, the letters of recommendation play a critical role in the selection process.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

The Policy Fellows program brings together emerging and mid-career leaders from the nonprofit, business, and government sectors in the state of Minnesota, equipping participants with core leadership competencies to inspire, organize, and work effectively with others to advance the public good.

The program requires participants to make a commitment to professional and personal growth as part of a cohort. Fellows meet once a month as a group between September and early June, and travel to Washington, D.C., for a multi-day study trip with prominent elected officials and national leaders in public affairs. Fellows also engage in a collaboratively designed small-group project, working with community partners to address a public policy issue. Policy Fellows can expect to spend 10 to 15 hours per month on activities related to the program.

Here are *some* of the things we are looking for in our applicants:

- A leader or strongly emerging leader in their field of work
- An interesting perspective that would add value to the cohort
- A demonstrated ability or desire to engage across differences
- A record of contributing to their community or working toward the common good
- Self-awareness, curiosity, problem-solving skills, and openness to new ideas and concepts

HOW YOU CAN HELP THIS APPLICANT:

Please write a detailed recommendation letter explaining why the applicant should be considered for the Policy Fellows program at this time. Please describe how you believe they would benefit from this experience, and what sort of contributions you believe they would make as part of a cohort.

Be sure to include the following:

- Your name and your role/organization (use letterhead, if possible)
- Your relationship to the applicant
- Whether you are a former participant in the Policy Fellows program (formerly Policy Forum/Mondale Forum)

Recommendation letters must be emailed or postmarked by Friday, May 31, 2024. You may also give your letter directly to the applicant, who can submit it with their other application materials.

*Please note that every applicant is **required** to have two letters of recommendation. Applications missing one or both letters will be deemed incomplete and will not be considered for this year's cohort.*

Send to: cspg@umn.edu

OR

CSPG, Policy Fellows program

Attn: Sara Benzkofer

301 19th Ave. South, Room 130

Minneapolis, MN 55455

If you plan to send via mail, please let us know at cspg@umn.edu.