



James E. Clyburn Fellowship Application 2021

Objective:

The South Carolina Democratic Party James E. Clyburn Political Fellowship (Clyburn Fellowship) offers leadership, policy, and campaign training to young professionals living in South Carolina. The Clyburn Fellowship was created to develop and train the next generation of Democratic leaders.

Over the course of a year Fellows will meet during four two-day intensive seminars. Each session will be led by experienced and accomplished national and state facilitators. These facilitators will help participants explore the concepts and challenges of Party leadership. This includes learning proven campaign strategies and developing skills critical to winning elections. Ultimately this program shapes Fellows on their way to becoming politicians, campaign managers, fundraising directors and consultants in local, county and state party operations.

Goals:

The goal of the Fellowship is to develop the next generation of leadership and talent in the South Carolina Democratic Party. At the conclusion of the program, each Fellow will be equipped to work in the field of politics that best suits their aspirations. They will have abilities vital not only to winning offices but governing as well.

Background on James E. Clyburn

The Fellowship is named after one of the most successful Congressmen in the history of the South Carolina Democratic Party. James E. Clyburn is Majority Whip in the United States House of Representatives, making him the third ranking Democrat in Leadership. Previously, Clyburn has served as Assistant Democratic Leader, House Democratic Caucus Chairman and Vice Chairman, as well as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus. In 1993, Clyburn became the first African-American to serve in Congress from South Carolina since Reconstruction. Before becoming a member of Congress, Clyburn was extremely active in South Carolina politics.

Fellowship Requirements and Qualifications

We're looking for a diverse and dynamic group of men and women who are interested in running for office, running political campaigns and developing into leaders in the Democratic Party. Applications are sought from individuals who are interested in enhancing their leadership and political skills in order to better serve their communities, constituencies and causes.

Nominees should be residents of South Carolina, eighteen years of age or older, and be considered or have the potential to be among the top young leaders within their respective counties.

Desired Clyburn Fellows Qualifications

- Dedication to the values of the Democratic Party
- Interest in running for or helping others achieve public office
- Desire to participate in the political process and to strengthen leadership skills
- Experience in local community activities and electoral politics
- Ability to excite and expand the Democratic base
- Willingness to learn and explore different points of view

The curriculum for the training sessions will include discussions of the following:

- Examining the challenges of leadership and qualities of leadership necessary to master the forces of change;
- Exploring various political case studies related to topics like political ethics;
- Developing a winning strategy and executing a successful campaign;
- Recruiting and managing staff and volunteers;
- Creating and communicating messages that educate and motivate others into action;
- Running a local party apparatus;
- Building a fundraising program and raising the necessary funds to win;
- Understanding the balance of a field versus media strategy in today's campaigns; and
- Utilizing data, social media, and the latest technology to win elections.

Application Process

Completed applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. Tuesday, August 16. The selection review process takes place in late August. Applications may be emailed to Clyburnfellowship@scdp.org.

The fellowship covers participants' lodging, meals and program costs, however, Fellows must pay travel and parking expenses.

Fellowship and Schedule

There are 4 sessions throughout the course of the year at the State Party Headquarters located at 1929 Gadsden Street in Columbia. Sessions are scheduled one weekend a month for the remainder of 2021 and typically begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday and conclude by 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. Applicants are expected to attend all sessions to be considered for the Fellowship.

Start times and end times of sessions are subject to change. The 2021 sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

September 25 and 26, 2021

October 30 and 31, 2021

November 20 and 21, 2021

December 11 and 12, 2021

Commitment

Becoming a Clyburn Fellow is a substantial time commitment. Participants are expected to attend all four weekend sessions and to fully participate in order to receive a certificate of completion. If your schedule will not permit this, please delay your application until you are able to make this time commitment.

[Click here to view the application for the 2021 Clyburn Fellowship.](#)