



The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice

*The future will belong to those who have passion and are willing
to work hard to make our country better.*

- Senator Paul D. Wellstone

Paul Wellstone was a professor of political science at Carleton College for 21 years before being elected in 1990 to the first of two terms in the United States Senate. While serving in the Senate, he earned a reputation as an advocate for social justice and as an outspoken champion for those who lack a voice in the national arena. Senator Wellstone strongly believed that the purpose of holding public office was to serve others, and he lived his convictions. His time in the Senate was distinguished by his devotion to liberal causes, including a strong commitment to the achievement of universal health care for all. On October 25, 2002, his mission was cut short when he died in a plane crash. However, his death stimulated interest in his progressive political vision, and his life inspired others to act in the interest of the common good. To honor his life and legacy, Families USA, the national organization for health care consumers, established the Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice in 2004.

The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice is designed to foster the advancement of social justice through participation in health care advocacy work that focuses on the unique challenges facing many low-income and minority communities. Through this fellowship, Families USA hopes to expand the pool of talented social justice advocates from underrepresented economic, racial, and ethnic minority groups, including the American Indian & Alaska Native, Asian American, Black/African American, Latino, and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander communities.

The goals of the Wellstone Fellowship Program are to address the broad disparities in access to health care, to inspire Wellstone Fellows to continue working for social justice throughout their lives, and to increase the number and racial and ethnic diversity of up-and-coming social justice advocates and leaders.

Families USA will select one talented and motivated candidate to fill this 12-month fellowship.

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FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Wellstone Fellow's primary responsibilities include assisting in the organization of conferences and trainings for advocates and community leaders; drafting talking points, blogs, fact sheets, and other publications; and developing content for the Families USA website and email lists. During the year, the fellow will learn about health reform implementation, Medicaid, Medicare, health equity, and other important health policy issues. At the same time, the Wellstone Fellow will develop an understanding of the tactics and strategies used in state-based consumer health advocacy organizations and will work directly with our network of state consumer health advocates and organizations. For more information about The Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice and the type of work that Wellstone Fellows do, please see our website at familiesusa.org/wellstone.

The Fellowship will last one year, from August 2012 through July 2013, and the Fellow will receive a compensatory package that includes an annual salary of approximately \$38,000 and excellent health care benefits. One Wellstone Fellow is selected each year.

QUALIFICATIONS & PROCEDURES

The Wellstone Fellowship is designed to increase the number of low-income, American Indian & Alaska Native, Asian American, Black/African American, Latino, and Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander social justice leaders. Candidates seeking consideration for the Wellstone Fellowship must demonstrate an interest in using organizing and advocacy skills to achieve health care justice and social change. Applicants should also demonstrate a commitment to contributing to social justice advocacy following their year of hands-on experience as a fellow.

Please follow the application directions carefully.

- Candidates *must* submit the following:
 - A completed application form
 - A personal statement and responses to two short answer questions
 - A resume
- Candidates *must* have both of the following sent by others:
 - An official copy of her or his most recent college or graduate school transcript (not required for applicants who have not been enrolled in a degree program after January 2009) sent directly from the school's registrar's office. No annotated transcripts, please.
 - Three letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional references and/or references who can attest to the applicant's community involvement, sent directly from the references themselves. Letters can be emailed if the letter is an attached pdf of a signed original letter sent from the reference's professional email account.
- All application materials can be sent by mail to: Families USA, Wellstone Fellowship, 1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100, Washington, DC 20005, or by email to: wellstonefellowship@familiesusa.org.
- All materials must be postmarked on or received by January 27, 2012. Application materials that are postmarked after that date will not be considered. Letters of recommendation or transcripts sent by the applicant or in an improper format will not be accepted.
- Finalists for the position will be contacted for an interview. The final decision will be made some time in April 2012. If selected as a finalist, the applicant's references will be contacted.

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Application Form

(Deadline: January 27, 2012)

(Please type or print)

Name _____
(Last) (First) (M.I.)

Address _____

Phone Number _____
(Primary) (Secondary)

Email _____

Gender _____ Race/Ethnicity (optional) _____

How did you learn about the Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice? _____

Please check here if you are also applying for the Villers Fellowship for Health Care Justice.* _____

Personal Essay

Please discuss the following topic on a separate piece of paper using a maximum of 500 words. There is no wrong answer, and no research is required to respond. Paper-clip your response to your application.

Explain how your personal background and experience have influenced your view of social justice. Include a discussion of the values, principles, and personal factors that led to your interest in applying for the Wellstone Fellowship.

Short Answers

Please respond to the following two questions on a separate piece of paper using a maximum of 250 words per response. There is no wrong answer and no research is required. Paper-clip your responses to your application.

1. How will serving as the Wellstone Fellow help you achieve your long-term goals?
2. Provide an example of one social justice cause or issue that you have worked on. Discuss some of the approaches that you used to draw attention to this cause or issue. The issue you choose does not need to be a health care issue, but can be any cause that advances social justice.

*Note: Applicants applying for both the Wellstone and Villers Fellowships can use the same resume, transcript, and letters of recommendation to satisfy the requirements of both fellowships. However, applicants *must* send in each fellowship's application form and respond to its unique essay questions in order to be considered for both positions.

More information about the Villers Fellowship for Health Care Justice is available online at www.familiesusa.org/villers.

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Wellstone Fellowship Checklist:

What *you* must submit:

- Completed fellowship application
- A personal statement and responses to two short answer questions
- Resume

What *others* must submit on your behalf:

- Three letters of recommendation
- Official copy of your most recent transcript

Send your application by mail to

Families USA, Wellstone Fellowship
1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005

or by email to

wellstonefellowship@familiesusa.org.

- Faxed, late, or incomplete applications will not be considered.
- All materials, with the exception of letters of recommendation and the official transcript, should be sent together.
- An official copy of your transcript should be sent directly from the college/university. Letters of recommendation should be mailed or emailed by the references themselves. (Please see the Qualifications and Procedures section for more information.)
- Please attach application materials with paper clips, not staples.
- Please do not submit a cover letter or any other additional material, as it will not be reviewed.
- Application materials will not be returned to the applicant.

For more information about the Wellstone Fellowship for Social Justice, contact Melissa Rosenblatt at 202-628-3030 or by email at wellstonefellowship@familiesusa.org.



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