



## **Cuyahoga County Public Policy Fellowship Program**

### **Program Background**

The Office of the County Executive is strongly committed to advancing Northeast Ohio in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Enabling county residents to have access to a world class quality of life requires an unyielding commitment from a group of highly entrepreneurial public service professionals. To ensure that the next generation of public sector leaders is empowered to shape the future of Northeast Ohio, the Cuyahoga County Executive has established the *Cuyahoga County Public Policy Fellowship Program* to expose future public servants to the inner-workings of county government.

*The Cuyahoga County Public Policy Fellowship* attracts entrepreneurial, highly motivated undergraduate and graduate level students and gives them a broad overview of county government. Fellows will participate in budgetary, legislative, and programmatic areas of county government and work directly with the County Executive's staff and County Council. Throughout the course of the summer, fellows will receive a \$1,500 stipend. The Fellowship Program begins on June 6<sup>th</sup> and ends on August 12<sup>th</sup>, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **Objectives**

- Empower the next generation of Northeast Ohio public servants
- Facilitate a practical and hands on education in Cuyahoga County government
- Inspire effective and ethical public leadership for Northeast Ohio
- Integrate hands on experience with theoretical understanding of the complex challenges facing Cuyahoga County

### **Nature of Program**

The Cuyahoga County Public Policy Fellowship offers rigorous experimental-learning opportunities to students interesting in pursuing careers in public service. The program provides an in-depth view of how county government operates. Through this interactive program Fellows will have the opportunity to:

- Work with the County Executive's senior staff
- Work with County Council members and senior legislative staff
- Draft memoranda on emerging issues and initiatives
- Interact with and attend meetings with the County Executive, County Council members, and senior-level staff from various county departments
- Learn about the work and mission of County departments and County Council through weekly presentations by department directors and senior level staff
- Attend press conferences, County Council hearings, senior staff meetings, and strategic planning sessions
- Develop new ideas for policies and initiatives

### **Civic Leadership and Community Service**

In collaboration with The Cleveland Leadership Center, Fellows will participate in the Civic Leadership Institute an educational program series that exposes participants, in a short period, to a comprehensive view of our region's social, economic, business and political issues. Additionally, Fellows will also be required to develop a community-based service project that uses their fellowship experience to advance a local non-profit organization in need.

### **Eligibility**

The Office of the County Executive encourages graduate students from all disciplines to apply. The program seeks to attract candidates who are passionate about public service and have demonstrated a substantial commitment to achieving excellence through their scholarship, leadership ability, and extracurricular involvement. You must be a current enrolled undergraduate or graduate student and a resident of Cuyahoga County to apply.

### **Selection Process**

The selection process will consist of two stages. During the first stage, completed applications are screened by the fellowship selection committee. The selection committee includes staff from the office of the County Executive. Among the qualities looked for in future fellows are scholastic achievement, oral and written communication skills, analytic skills, campus and community service involvement, political awareness, and leadership potential.

### **Placement Opportunities**

Summer Fellows will be placed in the following departments. Applicants must indicate their top two areas of interest in their cover letter.

- Operations/Public Works
- Communications & New Media
- Regional Collaboration
- Health & Human Services
- Economic Development
- Law Department (2L or 3L Law Student)
- County Council

### **Application Procedure**

Please submit your resume and a cover letter to [HumanResources@cuyahogacounty.us](mailto:HumanResources@cuyahogacounty.us) by 4:30 p.m., April 25, 2011. The cover letter should include any achievements or skills that will help you in your fellowship as well as your desired areas of placement (see Placement Opportunities section above). Applicants selected for interviews will be required to submit 3 references and a copy of their academic transcripts. All offers are made with the understanding that prospective Fellows pass a drug test and a criminal background investigation prior to being selected.