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## **APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN: REFLECTUS ANNOUNCES THE “IT BEGINS HERE” FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

*New opportunity available for women in North Texas interested in political leadership.*

**New York, New York** (November 23, 2020) ReflectUS is pleased to announce the “It Begins Here” Fellowship Program for women in North Texas seeking political office and appointments. The fellowship program is geared towards women from working-class backgrounds. As a nonpartisan coalition of the leading women’s representation organizations across the nation, ReflectUS has launched this initiative to engage civically-minded women interested in political leadership in Texas politics.

During this 12-month program, fellows will participate in workshops, capacity-building training, group discussions and networking opportunities to guide and support their new and existing goals of seeking political and government leadership roles. Workshops will be led by ReflectUS Coalition members, national partners, and local experts on topics ranging from campaign fundraising and financing, public speaking and storytelling, campaign staff selection, financial management, and much more.

One of the companies participating in the program is Ellevest, a financial company for women, by women. Ellevest will provide workshops on financial literacy with emphasis on personal financial stability and independence, and will be a resource for the “It Begins Here” fellows. Through this segment of the program, participants will learn about the importance of taking control of their own financial well-being, which can help them prepare for the financial obstacles that may arise during campaigning and beyond.

“While politics in the U.S. have seen an increase in women running and winning in recent years, there is still a significant need for greater gender diversity in elected and appointed offices. ReflectUS is helping to meet this need by creating a fellowship program that addresses the

particular dilemmas working class women face when running for office, including financial concerns,” said Tiffany Gardner, ReflectUS CEO. “Many women are already leaders in their communities. This program will harness that natural leadership ability towards an even greater impact through elected and appointed office.”

“As a nonpartisan organization, ReflectUS is in a unique position to bring together national thought-leaders, experts, elected officials, and advocates in the women’s representation movement to North Texas,” said Cecilia Silva, ReflectUS North Texas Program Manager. The “It Begins Here” Fellowship program is designed to unite organizations across the movement while breaking down the barriers working class women often face when running for office.”

Applications are now available at <https://reflect.us/fellowship/>. The deadline for completed applications is noon EST on Friday, January 15th, 2021.

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## **ReflectUS**

*ReflectUS is a nonpartisan coalition of nine leading women's organizations working together. We combine the unique resources, experiences, and know-how of the leading organizations to equip more women to run, win, and serve—creating lasting change built on qualified, experienced women public officials.*

*Member organizations include [Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies \(APAICS\)](#), [Empowered Women](#), [Higher Heights for America](#), [IGNITE](#), [LatinasRepresent](#), [RepresentWomen](#), [She Should Run](#), [Vote Run Lead](#), and [Women’s Public Leadership Network](#).*

*For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Keisha Salmon, Communications Director, at [keisha@reflect.us](mailto:keisha@reflect.us).*