



## **"It Begins Here" Fellowship Application 2022-2023**

ReflectUS designed the "It Begins Here" Fellowship program to empower working class women in Texas that are eager to get involved in political and civic leadership.

Individuals will be selected to interview for the 2022-2023 Fellowship cohorts based on answers to the questions on this application. Fellows will participate in workshops, networking events, and be provided with other resources provided by ReflectUS and its partners. The fellowship program is geared towards helping fellows launch their political and civic leadership careers. The last day to submit your application is Thursday, June 30, 2022 and interviews will be conducted late July, 2022. The selected 2022 - 2023 Fellows will be contacted directly through email no later than Friday, July 29, 2022. The program will begin on Saturday, August 20, 2022 and run through Saturday, January 28, 2023. These meetings will be on the third Saturday of every month. There will also be another cohort that we anticipate will begin in February 2023 and run through July 2023. Additional details on both the Fall and Spring cohorts are forthcoming. On the application, please indicate the cohort you are applying for (Fall 2022 or Spring 2023).

Please be sure to review all of the Fellowship Requirements before submitting your application.

For more information, email Kimberly Sawyer, Interim Texas Program Manager, at [fellowship@reflect.us](mailto:fellowship@reflect.us).

## Basic Information

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Fellowship Expectations

Which Fellowship cohort are you applying to?

- Fall cohort - August 2022 to January 2023
- Spring cohort - February 2023 to July 2023
- No preference

Will you be able to attend the required Fellowship Kick Off meet and greet, at 6 p.m. Friday, August 19, 2022 in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and the mandatory celebration on Saturday, January 28, 2023? *Accommodations can be made for your travel if you live out of the area.*

*\* If you are only exclusively interested in the Spring 2023 cohort, please skip this question*

- Yes
- No

IT BEGINS HERE FELLOWSHIP REQUIREMENTS: Please check each item below to indicate that you understand the requirements of this fellowship. (Please Note: You must agree to all of the fellowship requirements to be considered as a candidate for the program.)

- I understand that I am agreeing to remain active as a Fellow for a period of six months, from August 2022 through January 2023 (Fall 2022 cohort) or February 2023 to July 2023 (Spring 2023 cohort);
- I understand that more than two (2) absences from mandatory webinars and/or trainings may result in my removal from the program;
- I understand that this is a paid fellowship and that the program stipend will be payable in 6 monthly installments. Stipend payment is contingent upon the fellow compliance with all contract and program stipulations;
- I understand that further details regarding stipend disbursement and time requirements will be provided to me during the interview stage of the application process;
- I understand that I will participate in the mandatory once a month webinars (see attached meeting schedule), other mandatory training opportunities hosted by ReflectUS, attend mandatory social events and turn in any assignments given to me, failure to participate will result in nonpayment/reduced payment for that month;
- As a ReflectUS "It Begins Here" Fellow I commit to conducting myself in a professional manner, including all forms of communication;

- I understand that programming and training materials provided are for my use only and will not be shared with anyone outside of the cohort;
- I understand that all programming and training materials are the intellectual property of ReflectUS and their partners;
- I understand that I will need to write at least two (2) blog/social media posts for ReflectUS detailing my political ambition and experience in this program (ReflectUS will provide guidelines and support for this work);
- I understand that videos and photos of me will be used in various ReflectUS promotional materials;
- I understand that acceptance of this fellowship offer constitutes my agreement in completing 3-4 surveys and participating in an interview and/or a focus group as part of the ReflectUS commitment to continuous learning;
- I understand that I cannot be a current elected official and/or if I file paperwork to run for any local, state, or federal elected office, or, if earlier, have otherwise informed ReflectUS of my decision to run for any local, state, or federal elected office, ReflectUS is unable to continue to provide me with a stipend or any private training, according to the IRS rules for organizations with 501(c)(3) status.

If you are selected as a Fellow, it is understood that you will participate in the mandatory once a month webinars (or in-person meetings) and other training opportunities hosted by ReflectUS.

<b>Fall 2022 Cohort Mandatory Meetings</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>
August	8/19/22
	8/20/22
September	9/17/22
October	10/15/22
November	11/12/22
	11/19/22
December	12/17/22
January	1/21/23
	1/28/23

<b>Spring 2023 Cohort Mandatory Meetings</b>	
<b>MONTH</b>	<b>DATE</b>
February	2/17/23
	2/18/23
March	3/18/23
April	4/15/23
May	5/13/23
	5/20/23
June	6/17/23
July	7/8/23
	7/15/23

*\* subject to change*

- I acknowledge that the dates above are required meeting dates for the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 ReflectUS cohort.

Do you have any additional comments you'd like to add about your participation?

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## ReflectUS Connection

How did you hear about ReflectUS and the "It Begins Here" Fellowship? (Select all that apply)

- ReflectUS's website
- ReflectUS Leadership Council
- Social media
- ReflectUS Programming
- Professional network
- Coalition member
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously participated in ReflectUS programming or attended any events?

- TX Leadership Council
  - Reflections Event
  - Bluebonnet Series
  - State Network
  - Socials
  - ReflectUS Internship
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
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## Demographic Information

*(This information helps us gauge who is applying and what needs our Fellows have.)*

Are you interested in running for public office? Please choose the answer you feel best describes you.

- Yes, I am interested in running during the fellowship program
- Yes, I am interested in running soon (in the next 1-2 years) and actively exploring possibilities
- Yes, I am interested in running, but at some point further in the future (at least 3+ years from now)
- Yes, and I have made the decision to run
- Yes, and I have experience running for public office
- I'm not sure / I don't know
- No

Which of the following best describes your political party affiliation, if any?

- Democrat
- Republican

- Independent
- No affiliation
- Prefer not to state
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the following best describes your political views?

- Very conservative
- Conservative
- Moderate
- Progressive
- Very progressive
- Other (please describe): \_\_\_\_\_
- It depends on the issue
- Not sure/I don't know
- Prefer not to state

How do you describe your race/ethnicity? (*Select all that apply*)

- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latina
- Middle Eastern/North African
- Multiracial
- Native American/American Indian/Alaskan Native
- Tribal affiliation
- White
- Prefer not to state
- Prefer to self-describe

If you selected "Prefer to self-describe," or have a tribal affiliation please do so here.

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How do you describe your current marital status?

- Married
- Unmarried
- Unmarried but in a long-term relationship
- Widowed
- Prefer not to state

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you live with a disability and/or chronic physical or mental health condition?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to state

Are you a primary caretaker for others (e.g., child[ren] or someone who is elderly, ill, or disabled)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

What is your current state of residence? \_\_\_\_\_

What is your current zip code? \_\_\_\_\_

In which year were you born? \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you identify as LGBTQI2S+?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to state

What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Select one)

- Some high school
- Graduated high school or GED
- Trade/technical/vocational training
- Some college
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Professional degree (including MBA and JD)
- Doctoral degree
- Prefer not to state

How many dependents do you have? Please include children and any other family members for whom you provide care for.

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Which of the following do you rely on as a source of income/financial support for you and any dependents you may have? (Please select all that apply)

- My part-time hourly job
- My part-time salaried job
- My full-time hourly job
- My full-time salaried job
- Income from another member of my household
- Social security benefits or disability income

- Government assistance program(s) (e.g. TANF, SNAP, state or local programs)
- Monetary contribution for child support
- Other monetary contributions, gifts or income totaling 25% or more of your income
- Prefer not to state
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe your current occupation(s) (Example- Architecture, Engineering, Business, Construction, etc.)?

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### **Political Leadership Interest**

Please provide a personal statement detailing: (a) your interest in political and civic leadership and/or community involvement; (b) as this is a fellowship for working class women, any obstacles you have faced while pursuing these efforts? (300 words max)

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What do you believe you would contribute to a cohort of ReflectUS Fellows and how do you believe ReflectUS will help you increase your political and civic leadership? (200 words max)

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Why is it important to have political or civic leaders from directly impacted communities?(200 words max)

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Please include TWO professional references. (First and Last Name, Title, Organization, Email, Phone Number)

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Please attach your resume with the submission of this application.

## **Thank You for Applying!**

*The "It Begins Here" Fellowship Application closes June 30, 2022 and interviews will be conducted in July 2022. The selected 2023 Fellows will be contacted directly through email no later than July 29, 2022. The program will begin on August 19, 2022 and run through the end of January, 2023.*

*For more information, email Kimberly Sawyer, Interim Texas Program Manager, at [kimberly@reflect.us](mailto:kimberly@reflect.us).*