



# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL

Summer Fellows Program

**Summer 2026: June 1, 2026 – August 7, 2026**

# Why Be a Fellow?

The Montgomery County Council's 10-week Summer Fellows Program is a unique opportunity that enables policy-focused graduate students to gain real-world local government experience across multiple sectors and issue areas. Fellows will also write a self-selected independent research paper and present their findings to the County Council.

The program is centrally coordinated by the County Council and the Council will always host Fellows. However, placement availability throughout the rest of County government changes yearly based on need and interest. Past Fellows have worked within these four independent organizations of County government:

- **Montgomery County Council**
- **Montgomery County Executive Branch**
- **Office of Legislative Oversight**
- **Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation**



## Examples of specific Executive Branch placements:



Office of the  
County Executive



Office of Racial Equity  
and Social Justice



Department of  
Transportation



Office of Innovation



Office of Food  
Systems  
Resilience



Montgomery  
County Fire &  
Rescue Service



Department of  
Health and Human  
Services



Department of  
Permitting Services



Montgomery County  
Police Department



Department of  
Environmental  
Protection



# Build Your Experience

The fellowship provides multiple points of access to innovative leaders who are shaping the future of Montgomery County in new and exciting ways. It also gives participants the opportunity to build an experience that is specifically tailored to their field of study.



**Direct Interactions:** Summer Fellows will work directly with decision makers on ongoing projects and policy analyses in a variety of policy fields. Participants can expect to interact with elected officials, senior management staff and, depending on placement, local civic organizations, advocacy groups and business leaders.



**Real Impacts:** Our Fellows will also have the opportunity to write and present on a self-selected research project to the County Council. Councilmembers have used the policy analyses and recommendations from these reports to directly impact local and state legislation and policy decisions.



**Skill Development:** Summer Fellows will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills including writing, quantitative and qualitative research, project management, data analysis, implementation review, process development, public speaking, presentations and more.



**Exploration:** The Fellows also participate in field trips throughout the summer where they learn about some of the County's most innovative programs and meet inspirational leaders.



**Compensation:** An \$8,000 stipend for the 10-week program.



Check out our webpage at [tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows) to watch short videos highlighting the experiences of our past cohorts!





## About Montgomery County, MD

- Montgomery County, MD is one of the most **diverse** and **well-educated counties in the U.S.**, home to over **1.1 million people** and **4 of the most diverse cities in the nation**.
- While we neighbor bustling **Washington, D.C.**, our geographic diversity is extensive too, with urban cities, suburban and urban neighborhoods, and a **93,000-acre Agricultural Reserve** filled with rural farmland.
- The County is also the **epicenter for biotechnology in the Mid-Atlantic region** with the nation's **third largest biotechnology cluster**. Because of the proximity to our nation's capital, the County also **hosts several federal agencies** such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).
- Montgomery County Public Schools is continually ranked among the **top performing school districts in the country** and Montgomery Community College has been ranked as the **best 2-year college in the state**.

Visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/resident/about.html> to learn more about our County.



You will be able to explore the County and Washington, D.C., region through weekly field trips!

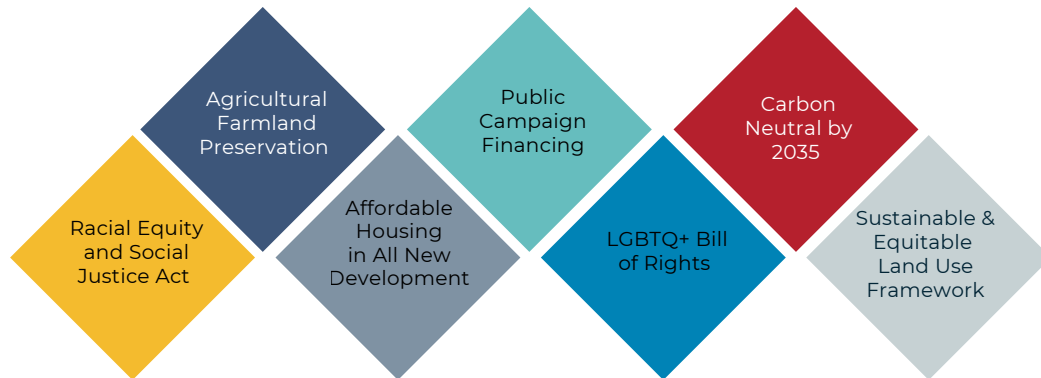




# Councilmembers

As part of the Washington metropolitan area, Montgomery County, Maryland has one the nation's most progressive governments. Many programs and local laws originally implemented in Montgomery County have served as models for other jurisdictions.

## Montgomery County Programs



Visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/council/> for more information on the County Council.



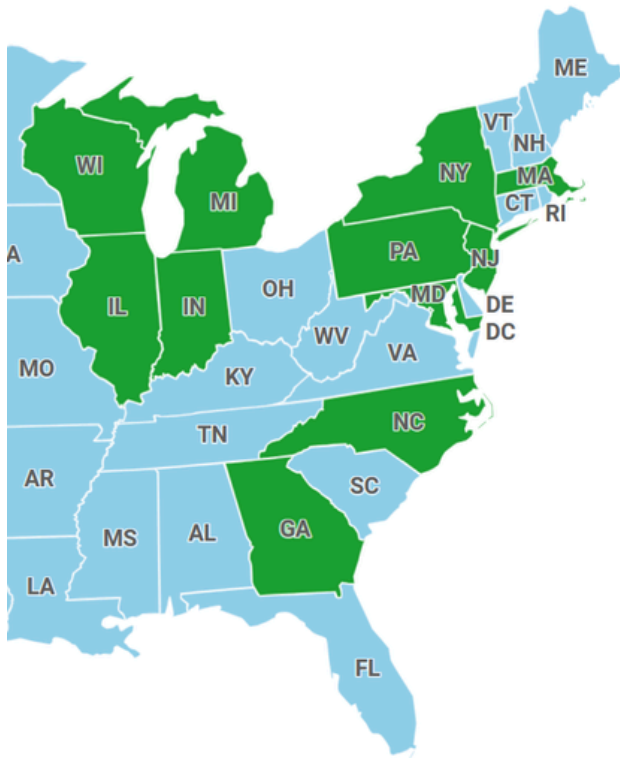
**Weekly meetings with Councilmembers, Council staff, and community leaders allows you the opportunity to ask important questions directly to the decision makers!**

## Montgomery County Councilmembers



# About Our Cohorts

Our program brings in graduate students from the Washington, D.C. area and beyond, with nearly half of our Fellows coming from schools outside of the D.C. region. Graduate students studying public policy, public administration/affairs, public health, planning, law or related fields are invited to apply.



**As of 2025, 73 Summer Fellows have participated in our program, from the following schools:**

**Maryland & D.C. Schools: 40 Fellows**

American University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Morgan State University  
University of Maryland

**Out of State Schools: 33 Fellows**

Cornell University	Syracuse University
Duke University	University of Chicago
Harvard University	University of Georgia
Indiana University	University of Michigan
MIT	University of North Carolina
Princeton University	University of Pennsylvania
Stanford University	University of Wisconsin

## Independent Research Projects

Typically, Fellows work on a mix of short-term and long-term policy analysis focused projects throughout the summer. However, a key part of our Summer Fellows program is the opportunity for each Fellow to self-select a research paper topic to write and present to the Montgomery County Council. These reports have served as the basis for real policy actions implemented in the County and State.

The collection of reports can be found on our website at [tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows).

**General research topics by our cohorts have included:**

- Educational Equity
- Racial Equity & Social Justice
- Pay and Wage Analysis
- Senior Care
- Criminal Justice
- Food Security
- Transportation
- Environment
- Affordable Housing
- County Growth Policies
- Health and Human Services
- Public Safety



# Eligibility Criteria

## Ideal Candidates:

- Are enthusiastic to learn about local government
- Demonstrate innovative ideas and approaches to policy problems
- Embody strong interpersonal skills and collaborative mindsets
- Are eager to make a real impact on Montgomery County, MD residents and businesses
- Desire the opportunity for skill development

**All levels of work experience and backgrounds are invited to apply!**

## Candidates must:

- Be current graduate level students (Masters or PhD programs)  
*Candidates cannot have graduated before the program start date*
- Have completed at least their first year of study by the program start date
- Still be in their degree program as of summer 2026 (i.e. have not graduated)
- Study public policy, public administration/affairs, public health, planning, law, or related fields
- Have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Live in the Washington, D.C. region during the fellowship period
  - Telework agreements may be discussed on an individual basis with your supervisor
  - In person hours still expected

## 2025 Summer Fellows





## Selection Process

**Stage 1:** All prospective Fellows must submit the requested preliminary information at the Council Summer Fellows website at [tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows).

**The Stage 1 application will be available on the Summer Fellows website from November 17, 2025 to January 9th, 2026.**

**Stage 2:** Applicants selected for Stage 2 must submit the following:

- Two reference letters (at least one graduate professor/supervisor is preferred)
- First semester graduate school transcript, when available
- A writing sample (5–10 pages)
- Responses to the following four prompts:
  - Your interest in the program
  - Applicable skills/attributes for the program
  - A policy analysis approach to a selected topic from a pre-determined list
  - An example of a work/school assignment that could be of interest to a local government

More details will be provided in the official Stage 2 application materials sent to selected applicants.

**Tentative Deadline:** Late January 2026 (updates will be provided directly to selected applicants)

**Stage 3:** Selected applicants will be asked to participate in an interview.

**Tentative Interview Date:** February 2026 (updates will be provided directly to selected applicants)

**Selection:** Selected applicants will be notified by the end of March 2026.



# General Information

**Where:** Montgomery County, Maryland

Many County office buildings are a 10-minute walk from either the Rockville Metro Station or the Wheaton Metro Station. Other placements may be elsewhere in the County, accessible by either bus or car. Transportation costs are not covered by the program, beyond the stipend.

**When:** June 1, 2026 – August 7, 2026

Full-time, Monday–Friday, 40 hours/week; hybrid schedule possible with supervisor approval

**Compensation:** An \$8,000 stipend for the 10-week program

**Housing Assistance:** Relocation is at the applicant's expense. Please let us know if you are experiencing issues with securing housing and we will be happy to help.



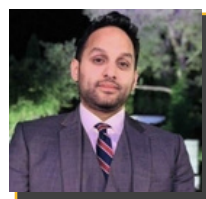
**Link:** [Summer Fellows Website](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows)  
([tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows))

## Contact Information:

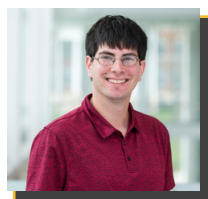
Contact the Summer Fellows coordinators at [summerfellows@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:summerfellows@montgomerycountymd.gov).



**Pamela Dunn (she/her)**  
Senior Legislative Analyst



**Naeem Mia (he/him)**  
Legislative Analyst



**Logan Anbinder (he/him)**  
Legislative Analyst



**Nicole Rodríguez-Hernández (she/her)**  
Legislative Analyst



**[www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)**

Summer Fellows Website ([tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows](https://tinyurl.com/MoCoSummerFellows))