



CivicSpark

a program of the Local Government Commission

Make a Difference While Launching Your Career in Sustainability!

CivicSpark is Governor Brown's Initiative AmeriCorps program dedicated to **building capacity for local governments to address climate change**. CivicSpark is managed by the Local Government Commission in partnership with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The CivicSpark Fellowship offers recent college graduates with the opportunity to gain valuable experience in the sustainability field, attend regular trainings for technical skills building and professional development, and develop a strong network, all while creating a lasting difference in local communities. Fellows serve for 11 months, implementing critical climate change mitigation and adaptation projects throughout the state of California on a range of tasks from data collection and analysis, to community outreach, to report writing and presenting.



Our Model



Gap Assessments

To build understanding of and engagement with community partners, fellows start by reviewing key documents and interviewing staff.



Volunteer Engagement

In parallel with a service project, fellows will have the opportunity to develop and lead a volunteer engagement project to increase local climate action.



Service Projects

The majority of the CivicSpark fellowship involves implementing specific climate projects that reflect the goals of the communities being served.



Transitioning Expertise

Fellows' service will conclude with a transitional activity designed to provide training to staff or share project results with key stakeholders.

Our Regions



CivicSpark fellows are organized in regional teams throughout the state of California.

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|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. North Coast | 5. Central Coast |
| 2. Sierra Nevada | 6. San Joaquin Valley |
| 3. Sacramento | 7. Los Angeles |
| 4. San Francisco Bay Area | 8. Southern California |

Each regional team consists of 3-7 CivicSpark fellows and 1 regional coordinator (half-time senior project managers who provide supervision and mentorship). Fellows also receive support from the Local Government Commission, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research, and a regional partner.

2016-17 Calendar

May 25, 2016

Fellow applications open.

July 15, 2016

Priority deadline 1 to submit fellow applications.

August 15, 2016

Priority deadline 2 to submit fellow applications.

October 1, 2016

Fellows are hired.

Early October

Fellow orientation takes place.

Mid October

Local projects get underway.

2015-16 Project Examples

Climate Change

Climate Action Plan Implementation:

Implementing Climate Action Plan measures in Emeryville, Hayward, Santa Monica, Piedmont, Union City, Walnut Creek, the Sierra Nevadas, Los Angeles County, Merced County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County.

Water

Regional Resiliency in the Sierras:

Supporting water/energy system improvements and providing drought training for local government staff to support water-related resiliency initiatives in the region.

Transportation

Regional EV and Fuel Cells:

Supporting the accelerated adoption of electric vehicles and other alternative vehicle fuels to develop a robust market for alternative fuels in the broader North Coast region.

High Speed Rail Vulnerability Assessment:

Identifying specific climate risks and performing a quantitative assessment of the impacts on high-speed rail assets and future operations.



"I personally feel that CivicSpark has opened an endless collection of doors into many different sectors of society. I truly feel like we are strengthening communities--not single-handedly, but as a collective group of passionate people working to get things done."

Kriselda Bautista, Sierra Nevada CivicSpark Fellow

Benefits

- \$14,000 Living Allowance (before taxes) spread evenly over 11 months
- \$5,775 Segal Education Award
- Forbearance on existing qualifying student loans and payment of interest accrued during service
- Health insurance
- Childcare assistance to qualifying fellows, paid to an eligible provider of your choice
- Significant professional development training
- Network development with regional and statewide contacts in the climate protection field
- Valuable experience in the sustainability field and the local government sector
- Connection to a network of hundreds of thousands of AmeriCorps Alums

Qualifications

- A 4-year degree (major in an environmentally related field strongly preferred)
- Completion of DOJ, State, and NSOPR background checks prior to service
- Must be a citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States
- Capability to work in a professional office setting
- Commitment to the full term of service (11 months)
- Strong communication and teamwork skills
- Preferred:
 - One year of relevant experience
 - Experience with community outreach and data collection/analysis
 - Experience w/CA climate change policies and practices, and local government operations and structures (especially as they relate to climate protection)

Contact

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Local
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Commission



Learn more at www.civicspark.lgc.org/join-civicspark/fellow

Visit our website for updates on our planned new program, CivicSpark: WaterCorps, coming fall of 2016