Mississippi Delta Fellowship  
Summer 2017-Summer 2019

Based in Mississippi, the Mississippi Delta Fellow (the “Delta Fellow”) works independently and in collaboration with the Delta Directions Consortium to create transformational change in the Mississippi Delta region by improving public health and promoting economic development. The Delta Directions Consortium is an interdisciplinary group of individuals from academic institutions, community-based organizations, and foundations. The Fellow serves as the Harvard Law School Delta Clinical Fellow and Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center, as well as a member of the Delta Directions Consortium.

The Delta Fellow’s work focuses on pursuing improvements in health, food systems, and economic development to promote progress within the region. The Fellowship provides a unique opportunity to catalyze community change through the creation, development, and management of individual projects. Through their work, Fellows become familiar with community needs, resources, and challenges, and assist with the development of programmatic and policy solutions. These new projects are reviewed and approved by an Advisory Board drawn from Delta Directions members and, generally, should be developed in close coordination with local partners to maximize impact and sustainability. Fellows are also expected to support ongoing Delta Directions projects and maintain projects initiated by previous Fellows.

This position is a combination of academic, policy, and community work, requiring candidates to pair the academic resources of Mississippi State University, Harvard Law School, the Center for Population Studies at the University of Mississippi, and other local institutions of higher learning and nonprofit organizations with the needs of the Delta, in order to translate these partnerships into results. Fellows are also expected to serve the role of facilitator, supporting and providing assistance to various coalitions and community-based efforts around the state.

Principal responsibilities include:

- Managing existing and developing new projects, based on local needs, resources, and recommendations and approval from the Delta Directions Advisory Board;
- Researching, drafting, and editing comprehensive policy and research reports on selected issues;
- Providing human capital and support to local community-based organizations and projects;
- Planning and supervising research and clinical and pro bono projects for Harvard Law students who are engaged in the student-run Mississippi Delta Project, the Food Law & Policy Clinic, the Health Law and Policy Clinic, and other Harvard Law School clinics;
- Supervising students from local and statewide universities interested in working on health and economic development in the Delta;
- Developing, evaluating, and promoting supportive public policy within the Delta;
- Supporting coordination among Delta Directions Consortium members.

Prior and on-going projects undertaken by previous Delta Fellows include:

- **Food Policy:** A previous Fellow helped to establish and support the Mississippi Food Policy Council (MFPC), the first of its kind in the state. The MFPC releases reports, holds an annual conference, undertakes surveys and data analysis, and has drafted and successfully advocated for the passage of several significant pieces of state legislation.
- **Farm to School:** Previous Fellows worked with the MFPC and the Food Law and Policy Clinic to publish comprehensive legal guides on Farm to School and help schools begin Farm to School programs. They also assisted in the creation of an annual statewide Farm to Cafeteria Conference which is regularly attended by nearly 200 state stakeholders.
• **Maternal and Infant Health:** A previous Fellow worked to increase breastfeeding rates in Mississippi through a multi-tiered outreach strategy, including hosting community events across the Delta, working with local hospitals to establish breastfeeding-friendly practices, and promoting larger, systemic change through the drafting and passage of both local and state policy.

• **Early Childhood Intervention:** A previous Fellow secured funding and oversaw the creation and implementation of a community parenting class program aimed at improving public health practices. The program has served over 100 families, with a full-time location in Coahoma County and satellite locations across the Delta.

• **Economic Development:** Previous Fellows worked with faculty at the University of Mississippi to create a small business incubator and launch a transactional legal clinic, which services entrepreneurs in the state across a variety of industries, including food and agriculture. Fellows have drafted a number of reports in support of economic development, including a small business legal guide, recommendations for the state of Arkansas in developing a microfinance lending program, and a guide for farmers to sell their products to local Mississippi institutions.

For more information, please visit [http://www.deltadirections.com](http://www.deltadirections.com) (for information about Delta Directions) and [http://www.chlpi.org/flpc](http://www.chlpi.org/flpc) (for information about the Harvard Food Law and Policy Clinic).

This fellowship is an expected two-year commitment, subject to renewal at the end of the first year.

**Experience & Qualifications:**

- Law degree
- Strong writing, research, organizational and communication skills
- Strong motivation to learn and achieve superior results
- Ability to work both independently and in diverse teams, and in demanding and periodically high stress circumstances
- Demonstrated problem-solving skills and ability to work creatively within broad program goals
- Strong sense of self-motivation and entrepreneurial mindset
- Demonstrated leadership experience, experience bringing together diverse stakeholders, and/or experience with direct public action or community development preferred
- Relevant academic or professional experience, including interest in or experience with economic development or public health, especially in rural areas, preferred but not required
- Interest in or knowledge of the Delta or the American South preferred but not required

**Salary:** $55,000 plus benefits per year, along with a relocation stipend, health benefits, and generous retirement benefits; also includes $15,000 in the program budget to cover travel and other expenses related to the position, such as funding events and providing program support.

**Application Materials & Deadline:**

- Curriculum vitae, including relevant coursework, work experience, and extracurricular activities
- Personal statement (500 words maximum) about the applicant’s relevant experience, interest, and suitability for the Delta Fellow position, as well as future career aspirations
- Two recommendation letters, at least one from an academic reference
- Academic transcript

Please submit the application materials by midnight on **March 31, 2017**.

For questions, contact the Harvard Law School Food Law and Policy Clinic at flpc@law.harvard.edu.