The Michael S. Dukakis Governors’ SUMMER FELLOWSHIP

PREPARING LEADERS in State Government
Through the generous support of Marilyn and Calvin Gross (Harvard College 1956), the Michael S. Dukakis Governors’ Summer Fellowship Program exposes talented Harvard Kennedy School students who aspire to leadership roles in state government to the unique challenges of state-level public service.

Dukakis Fellows serve in the executive offices of governors across the country during the summer between their first and second years of graduate study. Students get an up-close look at the challenges and opportunities that define the highest levels of state government and have first-hand involvement in addressing those challenges, particularly in the areas of policy and budget.

“Since 2007, our sponsored fellowship, honoring the career and wishes of Governor Michael Dukakis, continues on a non-partisan basis to assist governors and states in solving major problems. Through the program, we engage educated and talented fellows and inspire them to pursue careers in the higher echelons of state government.”

Marilyn and Calvin Gross, donors
The Challenge

How does a graduate school prepare leaders to address the complicated public challenges we face? At Harvard Kennedy School, we believe in the value of experience. The Michael S. Dukakis Governors’ Summer Fellowship Program is an opportunity for our students to work with proven leaders. Through this funded, nonpartisan fellowship, students develop the leadership and analytic skills to tackle critical state-level policy issues in health care, education, economic development, public safety, and other areas.

“I was fortunate to be involved in public life for more than 30 years. Lots of us have dreams; I have lived mine.”

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor of Massachusetts

Why Harvard Kennedy School

Harvard Kennedy School students learn how to examine policy problems in their entirety by:

› analyzing available information
› weighing possible impacts of alternative policies
› understanding political ramifications
› producing action plans that are organizationally feasible and publicly valuable

Through a core curriculum focused on economics, data, strategic management, political advocacy, ethics, and financial management, our students are prepared for leadership positions in public service.
Send Us Your Proposal

Explain the challenge your office wants to address by including the following:

› A brief description of your proposed project
› The individual in the governor’s office who will oversee the work

Specify any requirements you have for your fellow:

› Do you require a particular skill set or experience?
› Do you require U.S. citizenship?
› Do you require the fellow to be a resident of your state?

Proposals will be accepted through late January. States that have been matched will receive details about their fellow in late March. Send your proposal and questions to dukakis_fellowship@hks.harvard.edu.

“Our Dukakis Fellows have brought new ideas and perspectives to Rhode Island. Whether analyzing the opioid crisis or the state’s infrastructure, or jumping in and helping us meet a deadline, they have contributed greatly to our policy team. They have produced well thought out, research-based recommendations on how we can address various challenges facing our state. The Dukakis Fellows can truly add value and we look forward to having more fellows in the future.”

Gina Raimondo
Governor of Rhode Island
2015–present
Selection and Stipend

A committee of HKS faculty members and staff carefully match students to projects. Dukakis Fellowships are highly competitive—a limited number are available each summer. Through the fellowship, students receive a full stipend for the 10- to 12-week internship, including support for travel to and from the internship.

“Our Dukakis Fellow brought a fresh perspective and data-driven approach to an intractable problem in Arizona. She built relationships across state agencies and produced actionable recommendations that our team is incorporating into the governor’s key initiatives. We are tremendously grateful for her work and look forward to welcoming more Dukakis Fellows in the future.”

Sarah Pirzada
Deputy Chief of Operations for Doug Ducey, Governor of Arizona
2015–present
U.S. states that have hosted fellows in the past 12 years

Photos of state capitol buildings from iStock