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Participatory Action Research Fellowship for Women of Color Leaders Project

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**Summary/Abstract**

This project is a partnership with the Women’s Pipeline for Change which aims to build a sustainable infrastructure to support women of color as they enter public life. Five community leaders from all regions of the Commonwealth are CWPPP Research Fellows conducting research rooted in their experiences. Findings from their individual projects and the broader innovative fellowship project serve as the foundation for web-based resources designed to provide inspiration, insights, and guidance to women of color in Massachusetts and beyond.

**Goals and Objectives**

The project seeks to:

- Chronicle the experiences of women of color who are community leaders in order to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers and opportunities related to ensuring greater electoral representation of women of color
- Generate resources that help ensure better alignment of resources to support electoral participation and leadership of women of color in Massachusetts

**Results/Impacts**

Research projects developed by the Fellows allow for in-depth exploration of the following:

- **Resources Available in Western Massachusetts for Women of Color Running Campaigns**
- **Latinas’ Pathways to Leadership**
- **Challenges of Entering and Sustaining a Political Career for Civically Engaged Mothers of Color**
- **What Keeps Minority Women Leaders from Running for Political Office**
- **Strategies to Support Asian American Women Running for Office in Massachusetts**

**Approaches and Methods**

This participatory action research (PAR) project emphasizes the collection of experiential data:

- Interviews
- Focus groups
- Journaling
- Fieldwork

Nonparticipant and Participant Observation

Most methods involve video recording and products resulting from the project will include dynamic multimedia components.

**Conclusion/Next Steps**

Analysis of fellows’ data emphasize the personal and professional growth of Fellows who participated in this project

Electronic resources generated from the project will be made available to the public and be strategically disseminated to community, not-for-profit, political, and other organizations.

**References and Resources**

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**Additional Partnerships, Interests, Information and/or Contacts**

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