



APPLICATION PROCESS
BILLIE OSBORNE-FEARS LEADERSHIP FELLOWSHIP

The Billie Osborne-Fears (BOF) Leadership Fellowship is a unique two-year leadership development experience that combines meaningful real-world experiences at Starting Point, a leading regional child care resource and referral agency, with academic training at the Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences (MSASS) at Case Western Reserve University, culminating in the receipt of a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. The Fellowship is designed to accelerate the careers of individuals working in the early care and education field.

The Fellowship was established in memory of and to build on the legacy of Billie Osborne-Fears, an iconic early childhood leader in Cleveland and the state of Ohio. Ms. Osborne Fears was the founding director of Starting Point and served as its Executive Director until her passing in 2020. A respected leader in the nonprofit community, Ms. Osborne-Fears, served as a role model for many and mentored many young professionals and colleagues over her illustrious career, utilizing her expertise in the early childhood field, her experience in community collaborations, her faith and sense of humor. Each BOF Leadership Fellow will be a living tribute to Ms. Osborne-Fears and continue her life's work towards progress in the early childhood sector.

How to Apply

There is no fee to apply for the Fellowship.

Required Materials

To be considered for the Fellowship, each candidate must submit ALL of the following:

- Application letter explaining
 - Your reason for applying
 - Past experiences and education that led you to this point
 - What you hope to gain from the Fellowship experience
 - How you want to use the Fellowship experience to build your leadership skills and use them to have an impact in the early childhood sector.
- Detailed resume
- Two letters of recommendation from individuals who can speak to your potential as a leader in the early childhood field. The letters may be from:
 - A faculty member in your undergraduate or graduate program.
 - A supervisor or colleague from an early childhood work setting or another setting.
 - Another individual who has observed your leadership potential in another setting: educational, volunteer, sorority, religious organization etc.

Submit all Application materials to: Fellowship@starting-point.org

Selection Process

The Fellowship Advisory Committee will review all completed applications on a rolling basis from October 2023 – January 2024. Applicants that move to the next phase of the selection process, additional materials, including an official college transcript, may be requested. (Applicants will be reimbursed for the cost of obtaining the transcript.)

Finalists will be notified on a rolling basis if they have been selected for an interview. Interviews (in-person or on zoom) will take place in February and March of 2024.

One candidate will be selected for each two-year Fellowship Cycle.

Questions?

Please direct all questions about any aspect of the Application Process or the Fellowship to:

Keyna Smith, Director of Provider Initiatives

Keyna.smith@starting-point.org

and

Jasmine Price, Regional Resource Coordinator

Jasmine.price@starting-point.org

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