

## WHAT IS THE YOUNG LEADERS OF THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE (YLAI) FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM?

The Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) is the U.S. Department of State's flagship program for emerging entrepreneurs and leaders from the Western Hemisphere who are seeking to drive economic and social progress in their communities and region.

## THE YLAI PROGRAM HAS THREE CORE COMPONENTS:

- ➔ a customized educational entrepreneurial leadership curriculum,
- ➔ cultural exchange and networking activities, including a Closing Forum in Washington, D.C.,
- ➔ and a professional placement with a U.S.-based organization.

While in the United States, YLAI fellows will work with businesses and organizations across

 **19**

**U.S. CITIES** for four weeks, Monday through Thursday for

 **32**

**HOURS PER WEEK**, from March 11 to April 5, 2024.

## WHO ARE YLAI FELLOWS?



**280 MID-LEVEL BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS.**



**MID-CAREER PROFESSIONALS FROM THE AGES OF 25 TO 35 YEARS OLD** with at least two years' experience as industry leaders.



**FROM THIRTY-SEVEN COUNTRIES** across Latin America, the Caribbean, and Canada.



 **50%**

**WOMEN/MEN**

 **44%**

**FROM FEDERAL CAPITALS**

 **62%**

**TRADITIONAL BUSINESS**

 **38%**

**SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

 **100%**

**COMMITTED TO PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROSPERITY IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.**



## YLAI FELLOWS

Are competitively selected every year to enhance their leadership skills, build new connections to help scale their business impact, and contribute to economic prosperity across the region



The YLAI Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX.

## WHO ARE FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENT ORGANIZATIONS (FPOS)?



SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES



START-UPS



LARGE COMPANIES



ACCELERATORS AND INCUBATORS



UNIVERSITIES, AND NGOS



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS



FPOs are interested in cultural exchange, meaningful collaboration, and regional networking. Each FPO partners with a YLAI Fellow to collaborate on a mutually decided project that adds value to both parties.

Together, FPOs and YLAI Fellows learn about the entrepreneurial ecosystem of each other's communities and share best practices for work in their field.



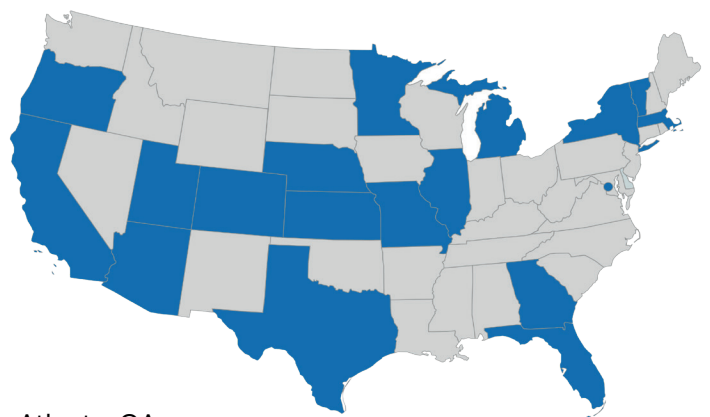
**SUBMIT AN INTEREST FORM**

[bit.ly/FPOform](https://bit.ly/FPOform)

## BENEFITS OF PARTNERING WITH A FELLOW

- Collaborate closely with an innovative entrepreneur through a fully funded experience
- Apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to travel to your Fellow's home city for further collaboration
- Address your organization's challenges and opportunities with diverse perspectives and expertise
- Create business ties with other FPOs and Alumni through our vibrant regional network

## 2024 YLAI CITY NETWORKS



Atlanta, GA	Kalamazoo, MI	Phoenix, AZ
Austin, TX	Kansas City, MO	Portland, OR
Boston, MA	Lincoln, NE	Salt Lake City, UT
Burlington, VT	Miami, FL	San Diego, CA
Chicago, IL	Minneapolis, MN	San Francisco, CA
Denver, CO	New York, NY	Washington, D.C
Detroit, MI		

“

Nina shared a need for a community organization such as Branchfood in her home country, Mexico. She offered to help us identify ways we could start a version of our program in Mexico to support food entrepreneurs developing promising products and tech. The exchange of insights and ideas was invaluable, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with Nina beyond the YLAI program.”

**BRANCHFOOD**  
BOSTON, MA



The YLAI Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX.



**SUBMIT AN INTEREST FORM**  
[bit.ly/FPOform](https://bit.ly/FPOform)



The YLAI Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government and supported in its implementation by IREX.

## ADVANCING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING

Since the initiative's launch in 2015, more than 1,500 YLAI Fellows expanded their leadership and entrepreneurial experiences through Fellowships at businesses and organizations across the United States.

**2015**

INITIATIVE'S LAUNCH

**+1500**

YLAI FELLOWS expanded their leadership and entrepreneurial experiences

YLAI addresses the opportunity gap for young entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds, geographies, abilities, and under-represented groups, equipping them to sustainably transform their communities.

## IMPACT

**95%**

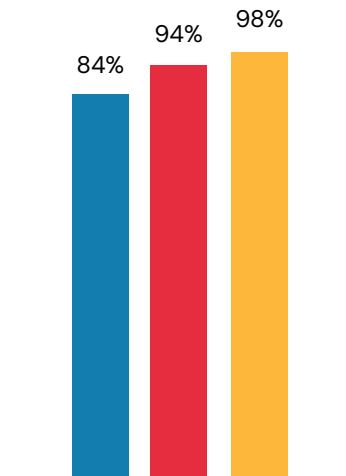
OF 2023 FELLOWSHIP PLACEMENT ORGANIZATIONS indicated that they were satisfied with the in-person collaboration

**+60K**

YLAI NETWORK MEMBERS with access to 25 online courses, over 100 instructional videos, and over 400 informational blog posts

### AFTER ONE YEAR OF COMPLETING THE FELLOWSHIP, YLAI ENTREPRENEURS RESULTED IN:

- Attracted new resources
- Felt prepared to find funding
- Applied what they learned in U.S. to benefit their local communities



From left to right: Akola Thompson (2022 YLAI Fellow, Guyana, Tamükke Feminists); Pamela Herndon (2022 FPO, KWH Law Center for Social Justice and Change, Albuquerque, NM)

After hosting Akola in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Pamela traveled to Georgetown, Guyana on an Outbound Exchange program. They met with grassroots organizations working towards ending gender-based violence, and convened a discussion group about labor laws to address the importance of women understanding their rights in the workplace. During this discussion, Pamela highlighted nontraditional skilled trade as a catalyst to lead women to sustainable professions. Pamela and Akola will continue to combat gender-based violence by developing ways for women in Guyana to enter nontraditional skilled trade.