



## 2025-2026 Cohort Application

### Communities. Elevating Voices. Driving Change.

Thank you for your interest in Advocacy Works, a leadership training initiative by State Representative Robin Shackleford and the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus Education Foundation (IBLCEF). This program is designed to equip passionate community leaders within Marion County, Indiana with the skills and confidence to engage in policy, legislation, and systemic change.

### Candidate Requirements

- At least 3 years of community activism or grassroots organizing in a leadership position -or- a graduate/professional degree completed prior to the fellowship start date.
- Familiarity with the federal legislative process, the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and its members, and related policy
- Demonstrated commitment to social justice either through public policy, professional experience, or community-related activism aimed at improving the living conditions for Black communities.

### Areas of Social Justice Specialities

- Housing / Environmental, Education, Health & Wellness
  - Economic & Community Development, Finance, Criminal Justice / Public Safety
  - Technology, Law & Policy, Youth, Family, Adult
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## Application Materials

- Your online application **must be submitted by 11:59PM EST, May 19, 2025**
- **The following items will be requested through the online application:**
  - 1 Essay Question Response
  - 2 letters of recommendation, submitted electronically  
(hard copy letters will not be accepted)
  - A recent photograph suitable for publication

## Selection Process

The selection process is highly competitive. Applications are reviewed by a selection committee composed of IBLCEF members and external partners. Finalists are selected and notified by the IBLCEF. Any incomplete or late application packets will not be reviewed.

## Application Questions / Checklist:

- Full Name
  - Date of Birth
  - Email Address
  - Phone Number
  - Home Address
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- City
  - State
  - Zip Code
  - Provide Name of Your State Representative
  - Provide Name of Your State Senator
  - Organization / Employer (if applicable)
  - Occupation / Job Title (if applicable)
  - Are you affiliated with any community organizations, nonprofits, and/or advocacy groups? If yes, please list them below.
  - Facebook
  - LinkedIn
  - Instagram
  - **Essay Question:** You are working in the office of a Indiana State legislator as a subject matter expert in your respective profession. Draft a memo to your legislator discussing three policy areas that you deem most critical to the advancement of Black communities, why your representation should prioritize these items on their agenda, and how they can create awareness on these issues. Be sure to cite your sources. (1,000 words maximum)
  - Why do you want to participate in Advocacy Works? What advocacy topics or issues are you passionate about?
  - Advocacy Works is a 8-month leadership development program that includes training, field trips, network events, and hands-on advocacy opportunities. Are you able to commit to attending monthly sessions and program activities?
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- What skills do you hope to gain from this program?
  - Do you have any scheduling conflicts we should be aware of?
  - References: Please provide at least one professional photo that can be used for promotional purposes. By providing this photo, you are granting the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus Education Foundation (IBLCEF) and Advocacy Works permission for use.
  - How did you hear about Advocacy Works?
    - Social Media, Community Organization, Word of Mouth, Website, Other
  - By submitting this application, I confirm that the information provided is accurate. I understand that participation in Advocacy Works requires engagement and commitment.
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