



Georgia Women for a Change
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www.gwomen.org

2012-2013 Georgia Women's Policy Institute – How to Apply

ABOUT GEORGIA WOMEN FOR A CHANGE

Georgia Women for a Change is a non-profit organization that promotes progressive public policy to change the lives of women and girls in Georgia. We are launching the Georgia Women's Policy Institute this year to train policy advocates with a special focus on older women's justice issues. This Institute is modeled after the very successful Women's Policy Institute housed at the California Foundation for Women which has passed 12 new laws and one resolution that positively impact the lives of women throughout California.

Georgia Women for a Change is accepting applications for the 2012-2013 year from representatives of organizations that work to improve the health and well-being of older women. Specifically, efforts to address older women's issue may include, and are not limited to, organizations that:

- Promote healthy aging in place;
- Expand access to care, services and public facilities for older women;
- Ensure and increase access to public benefits (e.g., Social Security or Medicare);
- Improve older women's access to adequate income support;
- Provide protections for the physical, financial and emotional safety of older women

The primary goal of the Georgia Women's Policy Institute is to increase the number of women leaders who are actively involved in the public policy process. The GWPI provides intensive advocacy and leadership training for approximately twelve Georgia women each year. Fellows in the GWPI are leaders from multiple sectors who have experience in women's issues and deep connections to the grassroots community. Fellows are therefore poised to play a greater role in advocating for public policy that advances an agenda for older women through aging justice. We accept applications from individuals working in nonprofit community-based organizations, academia, philanthropy, and media.

The financial costs to participate in the Institute are partially subsidized by Georgia Women for a Change. Applicants are charged a fee on a sliding scale basis based on the organization's size or the individual applicant's ability to pay.

The fee is:

Associates (individuals not associated with a non-profit)	\$125
Non-profits with budgets under \$1 M	\$250
Non-profits between \$1M and \$3M	\$1,000
Non-profits over \$3M	\$2,500

Nonprofits that have received competitive grants from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta in the last seven years (2005-2012) can apply for Nonprofit Scholarships. To learn more, click here: <http://www.cfgreateratlanta.org/Grants-Support/Apply-for-a-Grant/Nonprofit-Effectiveness/Nonprofit-Scholarships.aspx>

If you are selected to participate in the Georgia Women for a Change Institute, you will attend eight one-day training retreats in Atlanta, take part in periodic teleconferences and engage in various other "learning while doing" activities—all over the course of 15 months. Each fellow works collaboratively in a small team to develop and implement a policy advocacy project. When fellows graduate from the Institute they are able to navigate the public policy process with ingenuity and confidence and take

what they've learned back to their communities where they continue to engage in policy advocacy work. The broad areas of focus for the Institute are **aging justice issues through women's health, safety and economic security**.

CRITERIA

There are several requirements for a successful application to the Women's Policy Institute.

Successful applicants will:

1. Possess content knowledge in aging justice issues;
2. Have a strong and demonstrable connection to the grassroots community;
3. Demonstrate how your participation in the Georgia Women's Policy Institute will increase the policy advocacy work at your organization. If you do not represent an organization, be able to demonstrate how your participation will help a specific community or community groups;
4. Have the full support of your employer to participate in the Institute and to spend staff time to work on a policy project that includes lobbying. The Institute will provide information regarding the legal requirements for nonprofit lobbying.
5. Be committed and available to attend all eight training retreats for the full time of each retreat. Training retreats are held in Atlanta, GA.

Retreats are scheduled for:

Thursday, February 23

Wednesday, March 21

Friday, April 27

Friday, May 25

Friday, August 31

Friday, September 28

Friday, October 26

Friday, November 30

6. Be willing to work on a team with others who have similar interests, collectively develop a policy project and actively work on the project **even if** it is not your organization's or your community's top priority. Team members must be willing to work to bridge differences in personalities and styles to collaborate successfully as a team. Two to three members of an already existing coalition **may apply jointly** to the Institute to work as a team.
7. Be able to dedicate an average of two to three hours of your work week to Institute-related activities and dedicate more time during certain busy periods, such as before legislative hearings. At times during the legislative session, participants must be able to spend one to three full days per week working on their policy projects;
8. Be willing and prepared to bring what you have learned in the Institute back to your organization or community and train colleagues and members in policy advocacy strategies;
9. Be willing and prepared to engage after your year of training in the network of Institute fellows and graduates to continue advancing public policy agendas that benefit Georgia's women and girls; and
10. Have daily access to reliable communications technology including the ability to participate in webinars; commit to checking and responding to all Institute-related emails on a daily basis.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All applications must be emailed to Ann Rosenthal at ann@gwomen.org no later than 5:00 pm Tuesday, January 31, 2012.