FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION
This information will be made available to all fellowship applicants.
Please type or paste responses directly into boxes below. Boxes will expand to fit.

ORGANIZATION NAME: Colorado Fiscal Institute
LOCATION (CITY/STATE): Denver, Colorado

☐ Yearlong Fellowship (June 2015-May 2016) ☐ Summer Fellowship (June-August 2015)

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Title of PIFP Fellow: Policy analyst

Primary Responsibilities of PIFP Fellow:

CFI’s current projects encompass a wide range of topics and activities that we believe move Colorado toward more equitable policies that promote widespread economic prosperity.

The PIFP fellow will be required to conduct research and analysis and disseminate findings through multiple media platforms, participate in policy development and policy advocacy including lobbying at the state legislature and working with lawmakers, help CFI educate diverse audience on technical subjects through public presentations and media strategies.

How Fellow Will Contribute to Capacity-Building/Systemic Change:

The Colorado Fiscal Institute values our fellows as full members of our staff. They add a capacity for data analysis and outreach that we would not have without them and consistently demonstrate a real talent for research, writing and community organizing. They also bring fresh ideas, versatility and great tech skills that help the organization think outside the box.

As a policy advocacy organization, the Colorado Fiscal Institute strives to influence
decisions that have widespread and lasting effects on Colorado. As a partner with us, the CC Fellow contributes to that systemic change.

**Training & Networking Opportunities for Fellow:**

The Colorado Fiscal Institute is the Colorado affiliate of the State Priorities Partnership www.statepriorities.org. The partnership brings together nonpartisan, independent, nonprofit organizations in each of 41 states and the District of Columbia. They share a commitment to rigorous policy analysis, responsible budget and tax policies, and a particular focus on the needs of low- and moderate-income families.

Financial support for Partnership organizations comes principally from local and regional foundations, individual donors, and several national foundations including the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Open Society Foundations, the Stoneman Family Foundation, and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The Partnership is coordinated by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington-based research organization and strategic policy institute that works on a range of federal and state issues.

CFI’s membership in the Partnership provides many opportunities for training and networking for the CC Fellow. CFI will typically ask the fellow to attend at least one training session and one conference hosted by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities in Washington, DC. Both are excellent opportunities to build a strong foundation in policy research and advocacy, as well as network with other young professionals from around the country.

The skills-building training is a 2-day workshop where experts from the Center on Budget work with fellows and new analysts from sister organizations in the Partnership.

The conference is a much broader event, excellent for making connections. More than 300 people from 43+ states representing service providers, universities and colleges, policy organizations, state governments, media and foundations attend this conference each year. This year’s keynote speaker will be Kathleen Sebelius, former Secretary of Health and Human Services under President Obama and former Governor of Kansas. Last year’s keynote speaker was Ezra Klein, former columnist for the Washington Post, frequent contributor to MSNBC and the American Prospect political magazine, and editor of the popular Wonkblog, now head of Vox. Other notable past speakers include former Chief Economist for Vice President Biden, Jared Bernstein, national columnist and media commentator, E.J. Dionne, and Mark Zandi, chief economist for Moody’s economy.com and economic advisor to Senator John McCain. The conference is an excellent opportunity to learn more about state and federal policy and network with a diverse array of people from around the country.
Finally, the fellow will work as a full member of staff, representing the Colorado Fiscal Institute with community partners, the media, elected officials and their staffs. These are excellent opportunities to learn and network.

The Colorado Fiscal Institute also provides opportunities to attend workshops or seminars on lobbying, nonprofit management, fundraising, writing and other skills or activities that staff need to further their own professional development and advance our mission.

**Supervision of PIFP Fellow:**

Depending on the projects assigned to the fellow, he or she will be supervised by senior staff and management, including the executive director and communications director.

**Qualifications Sought in Fellow:**

CFI is seeking a self-directed, policy-oriented student with an interest in state/federal economic, tax, budget and other fiscal issues. A successful fellow would bring a basic understanding of government, a familiarity with quantitative research methods and excellent writing and verbal communication skills. Students should have a working knowledge of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Facebook, Twitter. Students with the ability to work independently, manage multiple projects on different timelines, seek feedback and adapt to changing environments do best at CFI.

**Preferred:**

Background in economics or public policy.

Comfortable working with large data sets like the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey data and Bureau of Economic Analysis’ personal income data.

A CFI fellow will be expected to present research findings to diverse public groups, including policymakers, nonprofit leaders and the media. Some experience with public presentations to diverse audiences.

**Beneficial:**

Previous work experience. Familiarity with WordPress, Salsa, IMPLAN economic modeling software, STATA or SPSS.

**Skills/Experience Sought in Fellow:**

PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
226 Worner Center, 14 East Cache La Poudre Street, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903-3298
Lani.Hinkle@ColoradoCollege.edu 719-227-8175 tel 719-389-6804 fax www.CCpublicinterest.com
About the Organization

Organization’s Website:  www.coloradofiscal.org

Organization’s Mission and Goals (primary activities & projects):

The Colorado Fiscal Institute envisions a Colorado where responsible economic and fiscal policies advance equity and widespread economic prosperity.

Our mission is to provide credible, independent and accessible analyses of fiscal and economic issues facing Colorado. We lead, inform and influence policy debates and contribute to sound decisions that improve the well-being of individuals, communities and the state as a whole.

Through high quality research, strategic communications, statewide education and thoughtful advocacy, the Colorado Fiscal Institute helps Colorado voters and community
leaders make choices that build an economy that works for all.

The Colorado Fiscal Institute believes that a truly prosperous state needs a thriving and growing middle class. A healthy economy results when working people can buy what businesses large and small are selling, invest in the tools that allow them and their children to do better, and save for the future. For CFI, promoting policies that strengthen and grow the middle class drives a virtuous cycle of increasing prosperity for all Coloradans.

CFI focuses its work in 4 programmatic areas. First, we strive for a fair tax system, which includes the broad use of tools like the earned income tax credit, child tax credit and the American opportunity tax credit. These policies are proven to reduce income inequality and open doors to greater lifetime earnings and opportunity.

Second, CFI works for smart investments in the people of Colorado. Spending policies that govern our shared investments should help level the playing field and ensure that all people, regardless of their race, gender, income or address, get a fair shot at economic opportunity and greater economic stability.

Third, CFI focuses on rational budget processes. It’s through the budget that the public sector works in tandem with the private sector to foster an economy that works for all. CFI believes that the state budget and the constitutional structures, like TABOR, that govern the state's budget processes should, facilitate strategic investments when they are needed, foster responsive and transparent government that can adapt to changing needs, and fuel innovation and entrepreneurialism.

Finally, as they say, you can't manage what you don't measure. CFI continues to lead the way in finding new measures to gauge our state’s economic progress and the well-being of Colorado families. In our early years, CFI sought better ways to measure poverty. Following in that tradition, in 2013, CFI published a new measure of economic progress for Colorado called the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), a complement to Gross Domestic Product, that is increasingly being used in the U.S. and globally to gauge whether or not people lives are improving. The GPI allows researchers, the public and decision makers to think more creatively about the economy, the broader economic impact of disparities within the economy, and what role public investments, like health care and education, play in fostering economic vitality. It is a more nuanced measure of economic well-being than GDP, but one that is objective, measurable and comparable to other states. CFI continually looks for new ways, like the GPI, to gauge progress and give policymakers and the public the tools they need to make the most informed decisions.

Number of Staff: 7

Organization’s Non-Discrimination Policy Statement:
The Colorado Fiscal Institute strives to be an inclusive organization and strictly prohibits
Is there anything else a fellow should know about the organization?

CFI is a newly independent nonprofit organization. We operated as a project of another nonprofit for more than a decade before attaining our own 501(c)(3) status in early 2013. As a new organization, CFI is still establishing internal governance and management practices and policies.