



Cecil-Corbin Mark Fellowship (NYC)

ABOUT US

West Harlem Environmental Action a/k/a WE ACT for Environmental Justice is a non-profit, community-based advocacy organization that works to build healthy communities by ensuring that people of color and/or low-income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. **WE ACT is a nationally recognized leader in the environmental justice (EJ) movement and is known for its work in the areas of children’s environmental health; government accountability; and climate, energy, and environmental justice.**

WE ACT is the only national EJ organization with a permanent presence in Washington, DC. Our federal policy strategy includes advancing and reforming new national policy, practices and regulations; supporting policy implementation and regulatory efforts of existing policy to ensure accountability; convening coalitions, organizations and researchers to drive a shared national EJ agenda; building a powerful narrative to catalyze a national EJ movement; and serving as a connector, re-grantor and technical assistance provider to build the capacity of EJ organizations into a powerful, cohesive national movement.

WE ACT prioritizes the voices of longstanding community members, communities of color, lower-income communities and, most importantly, those who have been historically marginalized and subjected to environmental and other forms of racism and exclusion. In accordance with the Jemez Principles, we believe that communities must speak for themselves. We work at the intersection of community engagement and activation, policy, research and education. WE ACT leverages our place at the table to push system actors, including elected officials, Big Greens, coalitions and allies to center racial justice and equity.

Cecil Corbin-Mark, WE ACT’s Deputy Director and a well-known and highly respected leader in the environmental justice movement, passed away on October 15, 2020 at the age of 51. He was a life-long resident of Hamilton Heights in Harlem, NY, where his family has lived for six decades. Cecil began his environmental justice career at WE ACT for Environmental Justice at the age of 25. He was the first paid staff person hired by the Harlem-based volunteer group when it became a formal non-profit organization. Over the next 26 years, Cecil grew to be one of the leading figures in the movement both in New York State and across the nation. At the time of his untimely passing, Cecil was WE ACT’s Deputy Director and Director of Policy Initiatives. In this capacity, Cecil helped develop and pass numerous environmental health related bills in New York City and New York State, provided overall policy guidance to WE ACT’s New York program staff, managed WE ACT’s Washington, DC federal policy office and served as an informal mentor to aspiring environmental justice advocates across the country.



ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Through the Cecil Corbin-Mark Fellowship for Environmental Justice Leadership, WE ACT is establishing a unique opportunity for young people to continue to follow in Cecil's footsteps, and to launch them on a career path to become the next generation of environmental justice leaders. The WE ACT team believes that it is appropriate to honor Cecil in a way that: 1) increases the capacity of our organization to win climate justice victories; and 2) creates an ongoing opportunity for talented young people to contribute to WE ACT's campaigns for environmental justice. During this year-long fellowship, participants can expect to work on WE ACT campaigns alongside seasoned environmental justice leaders. Fellows will gain experience in environmental justice areas including environmental health, environmental justice policy, and community organizing. Fellows can also expect leadership development and learning opportunities throughout the program that will strengthen their professional skills, and deepen their understanding of the operations of a community-based advocacy organization.

Fellows will also have access to networking opportunities with WE ACT stakeholders and allies. Detailed information about the types of campaigns Corbin-Mark Fellows can expect to be a part of [can be found here](#).

The Cecil Corbin-Mark Fellow will play a pivotal role in supporting the New York Policy Team focusing on legislative analysis, advocacy, and implementation of the East Harlem Climate and Community Master Plan. **This role is based in our NYC Office.** The role will monitor and analyze City Council legislation, policy priorities, and public engagement to identify opportunities aligned with WE ACT's advocacy goals, while also supporting policy research, compliance reviews, and City Council hearing testimony preparation.

Additionally, the fellow will also support in coordinating community outreach and engagement efforts related to the East Harlem Climate and Community Master Plan, including stakeholder communications, event planning and logistics, resident engagement, and compilation of health, climate, and socio-economic data resources to support community-based planning efforts. Finally, the fellow will support the Climate Justice Working Group through community engagement activities and by helping connect city policy priorities to local climate justice initiatives.

ABOUT YOU

Minimum Qualifications

- Passionate interest in environmental justice – specifically policy, community organizing or environmental health;
- Be authorized to work in the US for the duration of the program;
- Have a bachelor's, master's, or law degree focused on environmental science/studies, environmental health, environmental justice, environmental policy or other related fields; and/or
- Have demonstrated experience in environmental justice, policy, community organizing, environmental law, or environmental health.

*West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT for Environmental Justice) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization.
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www.weact.org



Project Knowledge, Skills, and Other Requirements

- Strong interpersonal skills, including ability to work well with community members of color and/or low wealth;
- Ability to listen and synthesize information;
- Strong writing skills;
- Demonstrated experience or academic background in justice, policy, science, health, community organizing, and/or advocacy related areas;
- Ability to meet deadlines and take initiative to pursue work, assist others and resolve issues;
- Ability to put together workshops, webinars, and other educational meetings;
- Strong verbal communication and interpersonal skills;
- Ability to multi-task and manage multiple projects at once;
- Highly organized, with strong attention to detail;
- Excellent time management and planning and proven ability to meet deadlines;
- Ability to travel, including to New York City, as needed.

SALARY & BENEFITS

WE ACT offers competitive nonprofit compensation and is committed to justice in salary transparency and wage equity. **The salary for this position is \$70,000 and is only funded for one year.** WE ACT offers a generous suite of benefits, including comprehensive health care (medical, dental and vision), flexible spending account, life insurance, pre-tax transit program, and paid holidays and vacation. WE ACT follows a hybrid work policy. All staff are fully vaccinated.

OUR COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

WE ACT is an equal opportunity employer and strongly encourages applications from people of color, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTQ communities. We are committed to transparent and equitable recruitment, hiring and promotion processes that foster inclusion and belonging. If you've read this job description, are excited by it and can see yourself in this role, we hope you apply. If you need a reasonable accommodation during the application or interview process, please email Shanell Reyes at Shanell.Reyes@weact.org.

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must submit, [via this online form](#), pdf of the following documents:

- Cover letter (1-2 pages), detailing commitment to environmental justice, environmental justice experience and/or background, and fitness of qualifications.
- Resume (maximum 2 pages).
- A separate document answering the following three questions: 1) What does environmental justice mean to you, providing examples from your own experience or those that are most familiar to you (maximum 300 words); 2) Describe a time when



- you were resilient (maximum 500 words); and 3) What is the relationship between policy, advocacy, and environmental justice (maximum 300 words)?
- Writing sample (3-5 pages). Example of writing on environmental justice, environmental health, climate, energy, or a related topic. Samples could include documents such as policy memo, an excerpt from a research report, an op-ed, etc.

Letters of Recommendation must also be submitted, [via this form](#). Support letters can be from professional or personal references, and must be submitted by the letter's author, not the applicant. Letters of recommendation **must** be on a formal letterhead. No more than 2 letters of recommendation.