



OVERVIEW

Tekano, meaning “equality” in Sesotho, is a non-profit organisation established to manage the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity in South Africa. This initiative is funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies as part of their creation of an interconnected fellowship programme on five continents. The programme will develop progressive leadership to address the deep social and economic inequities that characterise South Africa and impact on the health of our people.

Each year Tekano will select 30 Atlantic Fellows to participate in a structured learning programme that is inter-disciplinary and focused on consolidating leadership for change. Fellows will be exposed to social and health injustices and their causes, as well as to innovative multi-sector efforts to address inequity, in South Africa and beyond. They will bring this exposure into debate and discussion as they reflect on what they learn and as they relate critical theory, analysis and concepts to their experiences.

Tekano will seek to strengthen the leadership, advocacy and communication skills that effective activists need. The methods will build upon fellows' own expertise and use their organisations and activities as bases for learning. The fellows will embed the learning from contact sessions through activities before and after modules, including reading, online discussions, and tasks and projects in their own organisations or networks. The programme has six modules running over the course of a year and located in different parts of South Africa. The first module will be held in September 2017.

The year-long learning programme will just be the start of a lifelong supported collaboration between the fellows as they build and sustain a catalytic community of alumni committed to social justice and equity as a means to improve health. Selection as an Atlantic Fellow is a great opportunity for lifelong membership of an active community of like-minded change makers from across the world. Tekano invites applications for its first cohort of Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity in South Africa.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

Fellows will participate in six residential modules hosted in different parts of South Africa. Travel to and accommodation at the host venue will be paid by Tekano. The face-to-face learning modules, designed using social learning theory and critical conscientisation, will employ participatory and experiential group work to enable peer learning and exchange across organisations and sectors. They will offer exposure to applied experience in the field through community, civil society and government engagements.

Modules will be framed according to thematic areas which will be designed to be relevant to the interests of the particular cohort of fellows recruited.

Many differences in the health of the population are the result of political and social inequities. The modules of the fellowship programme will explore with the fellows how the unfair distribution of resources globally, nationally and locally impacts on health. Similarly they will explore how structural discrimination and prejudice - whether on the basis of race, gender, disability or other factors - have an impact on health and explain why some groups are healthier than others. They will look at how social justice activists in communities, NGOs, networks and government are taking action to address some of the root causes of health inequity - including lack of good food, inadequate education, poor quality housing, environmental degradation and poor quality health services. Fellows and other change-makers will share their experiences in pushing for change and in supporting communities to do so.

Running through all modules are three cross-cutting areas of development:

- a) Conceptual capacity

Fellows' understanding the social context and political economy of health will be sharpened. They will explore the pathways through which living and working conditions influence the health of individuals and communities, and the structural drivers which shape these conditions. They will use a range of conceptual tools to analyse underlying and compounding causes of social and health inequity, and to identify possible actions. These tools will include analytical frameworks which examine economic, social, gender and racial dimensions.

b) Confidence

Fellows will develop their own personal leadership capacity, exploring different styles of leadership and their use in different situations and contexts. They will strengthen their confidence to speak out and to lead on issues of social justice. They will also be exposed to opportunities to understand and grow collective leadership capabilities. The programme will include individual coaching with a certified coach to build personal leadership in relation to self, others and society.

c) Craft

Fellows will share experiences of how government and policy processes work at local, national and global levels. They will develop competence in innovative strategic planning and advocacy inside and outside of government, and practice key advocacy and communication skills within their setting, and at the interface between government and civil society

In all three cross-cutting areas of development, fellows will be guided in interpreting their particular context – their workplace, community, sector and geographical location – as well as current national political and economic contexts. They will learn how to take account of context in their work and will be given opportunities and skills to connect with other organisations within and across sectors to formulate effective interventions.

The residential modules will be complemented by a carefully designed set of workplace-based learning tasks and reflective exercises so that learning is extended in the application of new skills within the fellows' organisations. Between modules fellows will participate in peer learning circles to unpack and resolve the challenges that they experience in applying their new skills in real-life organisational and community settings. This will be done through the use of electronic discussion groups.

Proposed dates for residential modules:

- Module 1: 7 to 11 September 2017
- Module 2: 9 to 13 November 2017
- Module 3: 25 to 29 January 2018
- Module 4: 15 to 19 March 2018

- Module5: 24 to 28 May 2018
- Module 6: 2 to 6 August 2018

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the programme, please contact:

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