



Henry A. Wallace Fellowship Program 2026 Internship Placements

Below, please find descriptions for the available internship placements for this summer's Henry A. Wallace Fellowship Program. On your application, you will be asked which of the following internship placements you are most interested in and how they align with your existing skills, experience, and knowledge as well as those you seek to further obtain.

Charity Reform Initiative

The Institute for Policy Studies' Charity Reform Initiative was founded in 2020 to study the intersection of inequality and philanthropy, improve the rules that govern giving in America, and strengthen everyday people's influence over our politics and civil society.

Our work analyzes how corporations and the wealthy seek profit from the administration of philanthropy, how billionaires overpromise and underdeliver through their public and private giving commitments, and how these behaviors shortchange regular taxpayers at every turn. We house the Charity Data Lab and have published numerous discourse-shaping reports, including *The Giving Pledge at 15*, the biennial *Gilded Giving* series (most recently 2024's *Saving Philanthropy from Wall Street*), and the *True Cost of Billionaire Philanthropy*. In 2025 alone, our original findings and commentary have been featured in *the New York Times*, *the SF Standard*, *Fortune*, *the Chronicle of Philanthropy*, and dozens of outlets worldwide.

We're looking for a brilliant and motivated fellow to join our research and communications outfit for the summer. Collaborating closely with Bella DeVaan, Chuck Collins, and Helen Flannery, our fellow will participate in the production cycle of our forthcoming report on how top-heavy philanthropy has failed to meet the moment, contribute research to our billionaire giving database, workshop creative communications strategies, and write for our newsletter and op-ed network. They'll have a singular opportunity to bolster their quantitative and qualitative research skills, develop a sophisticated analysis of how inequality shapes the nonprofit ecosystem, and see their byline in exciting publications. Excellent candidates will have fluency in relevant current events, strong time management skills, and deep interest in wealth inequality, political economy, and/or the nonprofit sector. Quantitative research skills, journalistic/editing experience, or work history at a nonprofit are all a plus but not required.

Climate Policy Program

The aim of the Climate Policy Program is to support the transition from a financially extractive, fossil fueled economy to equitable, democratic and local living economies. Because we understand climate disruption as a consequence of our broken economic system, and as a major factor exacerbating race, class, gender, and other forms of

inequality, we look for root causes and promote solutions at the intersection of both the economic and climate crises.

We organize our work around the premise that to solve the climate crisis, we must confront systemic economic, social and racial inequality, both in the U.S. and worldwide. We provide long-term vision and bold ideas in domestic and international policy spaces, using research, writing and strategic conversations to redefine what is politically possible.

The ideal Climate Policy Program intern should possess an understanding of the connection between economic, racial, and environmental justice. We are looking for someone with very strong writing and research skills, basic quantitative literacy, and the ability and willingness to learn on the job. A strong candidate would have experience synthesizing qualitative and quantitative data and presenting findings/trends in clearly written and visually compelling ways. Proven experience with persuasive writing, infographic creation, governmental and other data sources, and knowledge of federal environmental agencies and policies preferred.

Criminalization of Race and Poverty

The prevailing narrative that poverty is due to a personal failing is false. Poverty is a policy choice in the US, one that takes shape at the intersecting oppressions of race, class, ability, and gender identity and that exposes communities to criminalization. It doesn't have to be this way. We need robust public investments in children and families.

By working closely with impacted people, we help them tell their stories, conduct research and report on the various components of these injustices, and support movements on the ground and advocacy coalitions. The Criminalization of Poverty project aims to encourage and influence policy, moving us from intersectional injustice into intersectional justice.

The Criminalization of Race and Poverty intern will research anti-poverty policies related to education, employment, food security, healthcare, and housing and homelessness. They will contribute to IPS's ongoing research in these areas and write an op-ed on a related topic of their choice. They will also attend coalition meetings on anti-poverty policies and Capitol Hill briefings, learning how Congress works and what goes into policy advocacy and grassroots movements. The ideal candidate for this role will have some knowledge of US social policy and safety net programs and a passion for working alongside and learning from impacted people.

Development

At IPS, we turn transformative policy ideas into action in partnership with dynamic social movements. Our Development team ensures we have the resources we need to carry out this essential mission. We are responsible for IPS's multifaceted fundraising program, from building relationships with foundations and donors to preparing reports and appeals. We communicate regularly with our supporters and are always seeking to widen the circle of people who sustain our vital work.

Each year, the Development team plans and hosts the Letelier-Moffitt Human Rights Awards to recognize the unsung heroes on the frontlines of fights for economic, cultural, social, and civil rights. This annual ceremony honors Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt, IPS colleagues who were assassinated by the Pinochet regime for their work defending democracy and human rights in Chile. 2026 marks the 50th anniversary of the Letelier and Moffitt assassinations, which we will commemorate with special programming and fundraising initiatives.

The Development intern will have the opportunity to write outreach and promotional materials for the awards ceremony, coordinate event-related logistics, assist with project management, and contribute original ideas towards the event's content. They will learn about the network of allies with whom we work, the history of IPS, and the back end of event planning. They will also have other opportunities to sharpen their skills, including helping to implement digital tools across the team and conducting outreach to college students throughout the DMV region. The ideal candidate for this role will have excellent research, writing, and organizational skills; a passion for social and economic justice; and a desire to learn more about ways to raise the resources we need to make real change.

Digital Communications

The IPS communications team supports a broad range of IPS project work by producing op-eds, media pitching, social media content, newsletters, and more. We're looking for a Fellow who can support this work by producing social video content (TikToks, reels, etc.) that promotes IPS messaging, resources, events, and more. ([Please review samples of this work on our TikTok profile.](#))

As our Digital Comms intern, you'll meet with our close-knit, six-member comms team regularly to learn about new IPS program work, communications products, and talking points. We'll identify opportunities each week for new video content, which you'll produce variously by interviewing IPS experts, summarizing reports or op-eds or talking points yourself, and/or editing footage of IPS events and relevant B roll.

You'll also have the opportunity to write op-eds, receive mentorship from multiple team members, and potentially pursue other areas of interest in comms.

The ideal candidate for this role will have a good grasp of the issues we work on and the broader progressive policy landscape. You'll have some experience creating original social video content, a strong sense of what performs well, and a portfolio and/or samples to share when you apply. You'll be good at working on a team while also meeting your individual deadlines independently, and you'll ask questions when you have them. Experience with writing, journalism, or other relevant comms skills is a plus, too.

Global Economy Program

The Global Economy Program provides research, communications, and networking support to dynamic economic justice movements in the US and around the world. Our goal: to speed

the transition to an equitable and sustainable economy while reversing today's extreme levels of economic and racial inequality and excessive corporate and Wall Street power.

The program works closely with movement groups to produce research, op-eds, and policy options for empowering workers and improving wages and working conditions. In 2026, a key focus of our work will be to conduct research and education around a positive vision for the G20, a forum for international economic cooperation that the U.S. government will be hosting this year. We will also continue to produce a stream of inequality-related research, including our widely publicized annual "Executive Excess" report on the gaps between CEO and worker pay.

Global Economy Program interns are involved in research and writing for our Inequality.org web site, as well as policy papers, op-eds, reports, and other materials. Ideal interns will be comfortable working with data and performing basic calculations (although high-level mathematical skills are not required). Interns have also helped to develop and implement communications strategies on the wide range of issues the program covers.

Inequality.org

Inequality.org is the premiere portal for facts and analysis on the harmful impacts of – and bold solutions to – the problem of rising wealth and income inequality. Through the site and our related weekly newsletter, we highlight the stories and campaigns of activists on the front lines of fights to reverse extreme inequality in the United States and around the world.

The "Facts" section of Inequality.org features some of the world's most widely viewed interactive charts on a wide range of inequality-related topics. These include charts on income, wealth, global, racial, and gender inequalities, as well as charts on the intersection of inequality and health, taxes, philanthropy, the care economy, and the Covid pandemic.

The Inequality.org intern will work with the editor, Chris Mills Rodrigo, to maintain the site and its flagship newsletter. They'll help promote the work of the site and its contributors to other writers, academics, and activists. This intern will also have the opportunity to contribute their own original writing to Inequality.org.

Our ideal candidate is a strong writer who understands the root causes of inequality, wants to expand their knowledge of the issue, and can condense complex policy issues into easily consumable pieces. Attention to detail is essential, as is a solid understanding of current events. We're looking for someone who gets excited about progressive policy, and seeks to share that enthusiasm in their writing and communications work. While not required, we'd love to find someone to join our team who has experience writing or editing for a nontechnical publication and/or has an understanding of WordPress.

National Priorities Project

The United States federal budget is a powerful resource, accounting for about a fifth of the U.S. economy. We can harness that power to make our lives better, to create a more just

and humane society, to end poverty, address the climate crisis, and enhance security and quality of life. On the other hand, that power can be used to perpetuate destructive cycles of war, militarism, violence and oppression that go back to our nation's founding and before.

The National Priorities Project (NPP) works to ensure that our federal resources prioritize peace, shared prosperity, and economic prosperity for all. NPP's research sheds light on the militarization of the federal budget and on critical opportunities for reinvestment. NPP's regular reports include an annual tax receipt, an interactive budget priorities calculator, and analyses of the president's budget and annual appropriations. Through our accessible data tools, we make clear the profound costs of funding endless militarism at home and abroad.

The ideal NPP intern should be passionate about anti-militarism, foreign policy, and/or the federal budget. And, we're seeking applicants with very strong writing and research skills, including competency in Excel and a knack for compiling and analyzing datasets. A strong candidate would have school or extracurricular experience in public policy, political science, international relations, economics, or related fields. Excellent communicators who value giving and receiving thoughtful, constructive feedback to foster a productive and collaborative research environment will rise to the top of our stack.

New Internationalism

The New Internationalism project works to end wars and militarism, with a focus on US policy. "New internationalism" refers to a combination of foreign policies based on international law, human rights, and equality for all. Our approach links the power of global social movements — and sometimes progressive governments and the UN — in fighting against wars, sanctions, occupations, and empire.

The project focuses on education, activism, and advocacy to change U.S. policies away from militarism and towards diplomacy. It also works to democratize and empower the United Nations in its fight for peace and human rights. In all these arenas, the project works with partner organizations who are organizing, mobilizing, and building movements in the U.S. and globally to challenge militarism and support those fighting for justice in the Middle East and beyond. An enduring and especially urgent focus for the New Internationalism project is ending US support for Israel's assault on Gaza and the broader occupation of Palestine.

The ideal candidate will be proactive and possess solid writing, research, and organizational skills. This person will also have some knowledge of foreign policy and human rights. In addition to providing research support for the project's co-directors, this summer's New Internationalism intern will help to coordinate a series of convenings focused on laying the groundwork for the next generation of anti-militarism organizing and solidarity campaigns.

Program on Inequality and the Common Good

Extreme inequalities of income, wealth and opportunity are disrupting democracy, social solidarity and mobility, economic stability, and many other aspects of our personal and

public lives. The Program on Inequality and the Common Good focuses on these and other dangers that income and wealth disparities pose for the U.S.

Through research and reporting, the program encourages policy interventions that can reduce extreme wealth inequality, and close the growing gap between the rich and poor. It also co-hosts the web site Inequality.org, an important resource for people interested in learning about what contributes to economic inequality and what policies we can advance to reverse it.

The Program on Inequality and the Common Good intern will work with program researcher Omar Ocampo to conduct research on one or more topics. This includes the impact of private aviation on climate change, housing affordability, the racial wealth gap, state income taxes, and artificial intelligence. The intern will also have creative freedom and the opportunity to contribute their own original research and writing on our platforms.

The ideal candidate will have excellent research and analytical skills. We're looking for someone who is passionate about social justice and wants to build a more just and sustainable future where prosperity is shared by all. While not required, we'd love to find someone with a background in Data Science or Data Analytics.

Symposium & Special Projects

Are you passionate about social justice movements as a whole, and enjoy working with your peers to create the infrastructures necessary for impactful public scholarship and successful grassroots campaigns? Are you interested in learning more about the progressive advocacy and policy landscape, including the ways that individuals and organizations achieve change?

The Symposium & Special Projects intern will play a key role in helping to realize this summer's 3rd annual Wallace Symposium, a two-day gathering featuring leading voices on the state of our progressive movements and how we can build power from the bottom up to transform policy. Working closely with the Fellowship Program director, they will support all aspects of the event, from the program schedule and logistics to registration and promotion. They will also amplify the progressive agendas discussed at the Symposium through their own writing, including op-eds and social media content. Finally, they will support special projects at IPS, from planning opportunities for collective learning and relationship building for the cohort to digital initiatives that highlight the Institute's decades of public scholarship.

The ideal Symposium & Special Projects intern is someone committed to advancing struggles for social justice across issues and strengthening their intersections. They are detail-oriented, driven, and care about people and process as much as results. In addition to exploring big ideas and debating policies, they have a knack for or desire to learn more about operations and organizational development. Previous experience planning large events or helping to guide a campus group or community organization is a plus.