



IFYC's COVID-19 Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors

Leveraging Religiously Diverse Communities to Advance a Common Good

Program Overview

The arrival of effective vaccines marks a transitional moment of hope in the COVID-19 crisis. However, two significant challenges emerged in the move from vaccine to vaccination, accessibility to and trust of the vaccine within certain subsets of the American population. While African American, Native American, and Latino/a/x communities are particularly ravaged by COVID-19, they also have less access to and in some cases are less likely to trust the vaccine. Politically and religiously conservative white communities, often evangelical, are also less likely to trust the vaccine. National research shows that individuals in all these groups are more likely to be connected to religious communities, which are vast sources of trust and social capital. Therefore, interfaith leaders from religiously diverse institutions have a unique opportunity to promote vaccine trust and increase accessibility.

In response to the high need of the current moment, IFYC is launching the Faith in the Vaccine Ambassadors project. IFYC is looking for a targeted set of educators to recruit and mentor a cohort of Faith in the Vaccine Student Ambassadors within their campus communities. These educators would recruit a cohort of up to 20 students, serve as a coach and cohort lead throughout the project, provide individual and peer-based support as their Ambassadors' work progresses, and track stories of impact and program learnings. **Educators will receive a \$7,500 stipend for their time and efforts over the course of the six-month program.**

Student Ambassadors will begin the program by participating in a training designed and led by IFYC. They will then work with their educator lead to plan and implement accessibility and trust building projects in high need communities with which they are connected. Ideal student participants for the Ambassador program will have a personal connection to communities where vaccine hesitancy is high. Ambassadors will have the opportunity to develop their own plans to address hesitancy or access with the guidance of their educator mentor. **Student Ambassadors will receive a \$1500 stipend for their time and efforts over the course of the six-month program.**

Program Timeline

- Educators complete this online [application](#) by **May 17th**.
- IFYC informs educators of their acceptance into the program by **May 24th**.
- Educators return their completed MOA and W9 to IFYC and receive their \$7500 stipend.
- Educators recruit cohorts of up to 20 students from their campus and supply their names and information to IFYC by **June 1st**.
- Student Ambassadors register for and attend one of two virtual IFYC-led trainings. The trainings will be **held Monday June 7th, 10am-3pm (CST) and Thursday June 10th, 12pm-5pm (CST)**. Registration links to come.
- After completion of the training and submission of their W9, Student Ambassadors will receive \$750, the first half of their stipend.
- Students will work on vaccination related projects from **June 2021 – December 2021**.



- Educators will be asked to supply a concise mid-grant update to IFYC by **August 31th, 2021**.
- Upon completion of the project, students will receive the second half of their stipend, \$750.
- Educators will complete a final report for IFYC due **February 1, 2022**.

FAQ

Which students are eligible to apply?

- Full time, part time, graduate students, and recent graduates
- Students from neighboring campuses
- International students
- All students must complete a W9

How many hours a week are students required to work?

- We do not have a strict hourly requirement for students or educators. Types of projects, student availability and needs, and community contexts all differ and therefore require different time commitments.
- The role of the educators is to work with students to plan the project(s) and oversee the process of determining how to accomplish the established goals, including how many hours are spent on it and by whom.
- Another way to think about the hourly requirement, is how many hours a week is reasonable to ask of students if they are receiving \$1500 over 6 months.
- With all that being said, we imagine that most students will work somewhere in the range of 4-10 hours a week.

What all does the role of the educator entail?

- The educator is responsible for recruiting a cohort of students and ensuring that they are both able and committed to the project. These should be students that the educator knows or have been referred to them and trust will be responsible community partners.
- Educators are responsible for ensuring students are engaging with communities that either they or the educator already have a relationship with.
- Educators are expected to check in with these community partners throughout the project to ensure that it is going well with the Student Ambassadors.
- Educators are required to meet with the Student Ambassadors immediately following the IFYC led training to establish concrete project plans. They are also expected to meet regularly with the students throughout the granting period (either as a group or with individual students). These check-ins should serve as an opportunity to get project updates, offer guidance, and collect information and/or data to be included in the final report to IFYC.



- Educators are required to collect agreements from community partners that state they are willing to work with and/or host students to do vaccine related work. IFYC will supply the required form.
- Educators will be asked to submit a short mid-grant report in August and a final report in February that include but are not limited to the following things:
 - Stories of impact and success
 - Significant learnings
 - Description of the project(s)
 - Number of people engaged (both students and community members)
 - Any plans for ongoing work with the student cohort and/or the community partners

Can a campus have two educator leads?

- Yes, a campus can have multiple educators leads. IFYC can split the educator stipend of \$7500 between the educators who are leading the project.

What kind of projects to you imagine students doing?

- Each campus's project(s) should depend on what the community(ties) need and ask for. This means the first step of any project is to listen deeply to the community.
- Examples of what campuses are planning to do include the following:
 - Work with local religious communities to provide information sessions about the vaccine.
 - Providing tech assistance to people trying to make vaccination appointments online.
 - Organize transportation to and from vaccine appointments .
 - Hosting a vaccination site either on campus or with local partners.
 - Setting up a vaccine hotline that people can call with questions.
 - Provide ongoing and regular volunteers to established vaccination efforts.
 - Social media campaign targeted at getting people accurate vaccine information.
 - Setting up a system where local vaccination sites call when they have an extra vaccine dose and community members who need a vaccine are given the opportunity to get it.

For any additional questions, please email Rachel Kline at rachel@ifyc.org

Learn more about IFYC's efforts to work with religiously diverse communities in vaccination [here](#).