FOCUS Impact Fellows
A program of FOCUS St. Louis®

As FOCUS’ most advanced program, Impact Fellows offers emerging and experienced leaders the opportunity to work together to address a specific issue in the St. Louis region.

About the FOCUS Impact Fellows Program
Each year, more than 350 individuals graduate from FOCUS’ civic leadership training programs. The most common question upon completion is “What’s next?” FOCUS Impact Fellows represents that next step, offering one more exciting way that graduates can put their leadership into action.

Launched in 2016, FOCUS Impact Fellows offers experienced leaders the opportunity to work together to address a specific issue in the St. Louis region.

In addition to producing a tangible outcome, project and/or solution, participants will gain considerable training and experience in change management, problem-solving, group dynamics, systems thinking and project management.

While the FOCUS Impact Fellows program is relatively new for the St. Louis region, similar programs in other cities have had significant success in facilitating positive and sustainable change on issues ranging from economic development to health to education.

This is a one-of-a-kind experience to work alongside your fellow leaders to produce real and meaningful change.

Who Should Apply
As Impact Fellows represents the most advanced FOCUS training program, previous leadership training and/or experience is required, and completion of a FOCUS leadership program is highly recommended.

As the goal of FOCUS Impact Fellows is to bring new faces, perspectives and skill sets to a community issue, previous experience or in-depth knowledge of the selected topic is not a requirement for application and/or participation.

Candidates from all backgrounds, sectors and industries are encouraged to apply.

How to Apply
Applications for the FOCUS Impact Fellows program can be found online at www.focus-stl.org.

If you are new to FOCUS, two letters of recommendation will be required. (This requirement is waived for FOCUS program graduates.)

The application deadline for the 2019-20 class is Friday, May 31, 2019.

Topic
The 2019-20 cohort will tackle workforce development with an emphasis on employment as an off-ramp from the pipeline to prison by collaboratively addressing some of the most urgent project needs identified by partner community organizations.

Upstream project proposals will focus on youth unemployment, justice-vulnerable populations like African American males 18-25, women, particularly women of color, and populations subject to the social determinants of justice involvement. Downstream projects will focus on re-entry populations using the latest evidence-based approaches including wrap-around service providers and employer based approaches.

“Impact Fellows has broadened my knowledge about what it means to be an active leader in the community.”

- Leanne Chilton, BJC Healthcare, 2016 FOCUS Impact Fellow
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2019-20 Program Dates
The program will run August 2019-May 2020. Attendance at program days is mandatory and includes time for both training and skill development, as well as working time on the selected class project(s). Program days are held at the FOCUS St. Louis office downtown and at locations around the region.

Additionally, please plan to spend time outside of the program days for individual and group work. The amount of time will vary depending on the project selected, but could include conference calls, small group meetings or research, as determined by the class.

Thursday, August 8, 2019 - Opening Reception
Friday, August 23, 2019
Friday, August 30 - Saturday, August 31, 2019 - Retreat
Friday, September 20, 2019
Friday, October 11, 2019
Friday, November 1, 2019
Friday, November 22, 2019
Saturday, December 7, 2019 (half-day)
Friday, December 13, 2019
Friday, January 10, 2020
Friday, February 7, 2020 (half-day)
Friday, March 6, 2020 (half-day)
Saturday, April 4, 2020 (half-day)
Friday, April 24, 2020 (half-day)
Friday, May 8, 2020
Tuesday, May 12, 2020 - Closing Reception

The cohort will spend its first five months diving deep into the regional workforce development eco-system through a racial equity lens, with unparalleled access to regional experts, agencies and organizations. The second five months will see the cohort complete a self-selected project in collaboration with those regional experts, moving the needle on workforce realities that affect our most vulnerable St. Louisans.

For more information
Contact Dr. Wally Siewert, Director of FOCUS Impact Fellows, at (314) 657-4026 or wallys@focus-stl.org.

Tuition
The tuition for FOCUS Impact Fellows is $3,500, which includes meals, parking, materials, training and a one-year FOCUS membership. Tuition may be paid by the individual participant, participant’s employer, another organization or some combination thereof.

Partial scholarships are available for qualifying candidates after selection into the program.

About FOCUS St. Louis
FOCUS St. Louis is the region’s premier leadership organization, preparing diverse leaders to work cooperatively for a thriving St. Louis region through experience-based leadership training, civic issue education and public engagement initiatives. As a neutral convener and facilitator, FOCUS engages citizens to deliberate on critical regional community issues in a trusted, nonpartisan space.

FOCUS offers a continuum of leadership programs to engage leaders from high school students to senior executives. Program alumni have been inspired to launch new nonprofit agencies, start businesses, and run for political offices. They serve on hundreds of boards and provide thousands of hours of volunteer work. FOCUS alumni and members are leaders who make a difference.