Launched in 2016, the FOCUS Impact Fellows program brings together experienced leaders from across St. Louis’ business, public and nonprofit sectors to make an impact on social issues in the region. The FOCUS Impact Fellows experience is immersive, hands-on and challenging. They work in radical collaboration with community organizations and experts to facilitate evidence-based project-driven innovation and change-making. Each class includes up to 15 Fellows and impacts thousands who are served by the community partner organizations.

Who Should Apply
If you are an experienced leader looking for meaningful and impactful civic engagement on issues critical to our region, you may be a great fit for FOCUS Impact Fellows.

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

Like all of our leadership programs, Impact Fellows welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, industries and sectors. Previous experience or in-depth knowledge of the selected topic is not required.

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

WHAT TO EXPECT

Curriculum
The cohort spends its first five months diving deep into an issue, 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 realities that affect our most vulnerable St. Louisans.

While the topic is still being finalized for our 2020-21 cohort, past classes have tackled critical regional issues including the healthcare safety net, racial equity and workforce development.

Along the way, you’ll gain considerable training and experience in change management, problem-solving, systems thinking, group dynamics and project management.

Commitment
The 10-month program meets 1-2 times a month from August to May. 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.
Application Process
Applications for the FOCUS Impact Fellows program can be found online at www.focus-stl.org.

The application deadline for our 2020-21 cohort is Friday, May 29, 2020.

You may also nominate an employee or colleague for the program online, and we will follow up to provide them with the application materials.

Program Cost
The tuition for the FOCUS Impact Fellows program is $3,500, which includes meals, parking, materials, training and a complimentary FOCUS membership during your time in the program.

Tuition is often covered in part or full by the participant’s employer. Partial scholarship assistance is available to those with demonstrated financial need.

About FOCUS St. Louis
FOCUS St. Louis is the region’s premier leadership development organization. FOCUS prepares a diverse base of leaders to work cooperatively for a thriving St. Louis region through our experience-based leadership training, civic issue education and public engagement initiatives.

FOCUS offers a continuum of leadership programs to engage leaders at every stage of their journey, from high school students to senior executives. More than 10,000 individuals have completed our programs, and FOCUS alumni and members are leaders who make a difference.

2020-21 PROGRAM DATES

Friday, July 10 Application Deadline
Friday, Sept. 17 Opening Reception
Friday, Sept. 25 Program Day
Saturday, Oct. 10 Program Day
Friday, Oct. 23 Program Day
Friday, Nov. 20 Program Day
Saturday, Dec. 5 Program Day
Friday, Dec. 11 Program Day
Friday, Jan. 15 Program Day
Friday, Jan. 22 Program Day
Friday, Feb. 12 Program Day
Friday, March 19 Program Day (half-day)
Saturday, April 10 Program Day (half-day)
Friday, April 23 Program Day (half-day)
Friday, May 7 Program Day (half-day)
Friday, June 4 Program Day
Wednesday, June 9 Project Unveiling

For the 2020-21 program year, plans are already underway to adapt our program as needed for several possible social distancing scenarios, including virtual, small-group and in-person sessions.

For More Information
Visit www.focus-stl.org or contact Impact Fellows Director Dr. Wally Siewert at (314) 657-4026 or wallys@focus-stl.org.