



Policy Start Fellowship

About MTF

MTF is a non-partisan, non-profit research organization widely recognized as the Commonwealth's premier public policy research organization. MTF provides public and private decision-makers with unbiased and timely research and constructive solutions that drive public policy, strengthen state and local finances, and position the Commonwealth for equitable and sustainable growth.

About the Fellowship

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF), in partnership with the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts (AICUM) and its member schools, is offering a 14-month Policy Start Fellowship (PSF) for graduates from communities that have been historically underrepresented in state policy research work.

The PSF is available to recent graduates from AICUM member undergraduate and graduate programs from communities historically underrepresented in policy work in Massachusetts. The PSF will provide educational and professional benefits by providing real-world exposure to policymaking, professional experience as a policy researcher, and mentoring and networking to get the Fellow started on a career in policy.

Hear from the Fellow

"During my Fellowship at MTF, I've had the opportunity to work closely with the state budget and gain firsthand experience with the legislative process, while learning from people with a deep understanding of the policy landscape in Massachusetts. I've built meaningful connections across government and the non-profit sector, through my Shadow Day experiences at the State House, and with key stakeholders, which have helped me understand how policy decisions shape communities. I'm so grateful for this experience and look forward to continuing to learn and grow throughout the Fellowship!"

April Beatty, 2025
Policy Start Fellow



Contact Us

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How the Fellowship Works

- Become a full-time member of the MTF policy team for 14 months.
- Create a solid foundation of knowledge around the state's budget and policymaking process.
- Develop research expertise in a public policy area.
- Opportunity to publish and present research and analysis.
- Attend and participate in member events.
- Network with members, policymakers, interest groups, and others.
- Participate in Shadow Days with members and partner organizations to learn how public policy intersects with their day-to-day operations.

Career Impact



Fiscal Policy Analyst
House Committee on
Ways and Means

Leedya Senbetta, 2023
Policy Start Fellow



Fiscal Policy Analyst
Senate Committee
on Ways and Means

Alexandria Sheehan, 2024
Policy Start Fellow

Program Sponsors



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Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation

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