

January 2017

**To:** Potential Applicant

**From:** AOP Steering Committee

**Re:** Applying for the 2017 Grassroots Leadership Development (GLD) Program

The Alabama Organizing Project (AOP) is a collaboration of six organizations working to assist low-income people with addressing critical issues facing most of our communities today. The collaborating organizations are Alabama Council on Human Relations (ACHR), Arise Citizens' Policy Project, Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama (FOCAL), Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund, Greater Birmingham Ministries (GBM), and the Hispanic Interest Coalition of Alabama (iHICA). The primary goal of AOP is to bring justice for low-income people in the state by organizing and educating people about policy changes and strategies to shift the balance of power towards the poor.

The **Grassroots Leadership Development (GLD) Program** is a leadership training program designed by AOP to help individuals become better, more effective leaders in their communities. Our diverse group of participants comes from across the state. This program is an opportunity for individuals to enhance their leadership skills, to learn new skills, and to apply their skills in their communities and organizations back home.

The 2017 GLD Program Cycle is from May – August and involves six days of trainings, a project and a final session. Dates are listed below. **The cost of the program for each participant is \$1,000.00.** The program costs include lodging, food and training session materials. Participants must cover their own travel expenses. If you need travel assistance, contact your sponsoring organization.

AOP also offers child care assistance for participants who need to bring their children if that need is indicated when you apply to the program. **AOP works hard to secure funding to allow us to offer full and partial scholarships to those applicants in need.** In order to help cover some of the expenses, we ask *all applicants who are accepted to pay a \$25.00 registration fee.* We also ask participants to contribute in other ways as required by the GLD Program Attendance and Assignment Policies. It is AOP's desire to make this program a valuable resource and a meaningful experience.

As you consider applying to the 2017 GLD Program, please note the following **mandatory** training dates:

- May 19-21, 2017: Orientation and Internalized Oppression
- June 9-11, 2017: Effective Communication and Issue Briefing
- August 12, 2017: Presentations and Completion Ceremony

Applications will be accepted through March 31, 2017 and those applicants who are accepted into the program will be notified by April 3, 2017.

Thank you for your interest.