Sponsor/Title: Department of State (DOS) - FY 2026 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (YALI Fellowship)

External Link: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/361684

Funding Opportunity Number: DFOP0017991

Submission Limitation per Institution: One (1)

Notre Dame Limited Submissions Listing:
https://research.nd.edu/our-services/funding-opportunities/faculty/limited-submissions-program/

Internal Expression of Interest Deadline: 2026-04-13

Sponsor Application Deadline: 2026-05-26

Purpose: The FY26 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders (YALI Fellowship) is the flagship program of the broader Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), which also includes the online YALI Network platform. The objective of the Fellowship is to promote a better understanding of American society, history, and culture and engagement with American innovators, educators, and institutions for emerging African thought leaders. The Fellowship also builds and maintains a prestigious network of influential professionals in critical sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. Through structured networking with Americans, Fellows develop a lasting connection to America and affinity for the American people. The Fellowship directly supports U.S. foreign policy goals for Sub-Saharan Africa, including strengthening U.S.-Africa relations in trade, education, and diplomacy. The Fellowship provides accomplished African innovators and professionals with six-weeks of rigorous academic and practical coursework at U.S. colleges and universities, an opportunity for approximately 50 Fellows to engage in the PDEs, and follow-on alumni programming. The Reciprocal Exchange component provides opportunities for U.S. citizens to travel to Sub-Saharan Africa for project-based engagement.

Internal Application Requirements: Upload the following information to the Google Form at https://forms.gle/UAEqsgKpqXWdEhLK6 by the internal deadline:

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI)
- Project Title
- All ND Collaborators:
    - For each ND Collaborator listed, include name, department or unit, and specific role for this project in three sentences (maximum).
- Project Summary: Three (3) pages (maximum) addressing the following Review Criteria as outlined on page 28 in the NOFO.
    - Quality of the program idea and planning
    - Institution's record/ability
    - Follow-on activities and multiplier effect
    - Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Questions: Contact Notre Dame Research Limited Submissions at limited@nd.edu.

Unless otherwise noted, all internal applications are due by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on the internal expression of interest deadline.

Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.