



IMPACT CASE STUDY

G{Code}

The Aspen Tech Policy Hub's [Nonprofit and Public Interest Policy Training Fellowship](#) is a full-time, 3-week, in-person fellowship with an optional final project to support public interest organizations in achieving policy impact. The inaugural fellowship took place in San Francisco in July 2023 and included sessions exploring definitions of policy, identifying problems, defining alternatives, developing relevant outputs, and communicating to stakeholders, as well as action-oriented practical exercises founded on real-world problems provided by our partners.

Below is an overview of one organization's experience with the fellowship: [G{Code}](#), which sent [Korene Stuart](#), its Director of Programming, as its representative.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

G{Code}, a nonprofit that provides introductory tech programs for underserved Black, Brown, or Indigenous young women or nonbinary people, sent representative Korene Stuart to the Hub's Nonprofit and Public Interest Policy Training program to learn more about how it could engage in the policy process. With support from the Hub, Korene and G{Code} have since developed a policy project advocating for the establishment of an online portal to better connect Boston residents to workforce development opportunities. The fellowship has also helped G{Code} develop a framework for policy advocacy as a direct services organization, and more effectively communicate with policymakers during in-person meetings.

G{CODE}'S GOALS FOR THE FELLOWSHIP

G{Code}, a nonprofit organization that provides tech and computer science training for underrepresented adults, wanted to better advocate for improved workforce development policies. As a direct service provider that serves almost 125 students a year, G{Code} had not previously worked with governments or tech companies on policymaking. For G{Code}, the Nonprofit and Public Interest Policy Training Fellowship offered an opportunity to learn about how it could advocate to improve the representation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous women or nonbinary people in the tech workforce.

KORENE'S FELLOWSHIP EXPERIENCE

Korene Stuart, Director of Programming, was awarded the fellowship on behalf of G{Code} and joined a cohort of 14 other fellows. “Policy will be forever ingrained in what I do now,” Korene says. “From the fellowship, I learned more about what nonprofit organizations can do to impact policy, from submitting public comments to contacting government entities at the state or local level.” She adds that one of the most important things she learned from the fellowship was “how to effectively give my input in those situations.”

Korene especially appreciated doing exercises that allowed fellows to directly contribute expertise to current policy conversations. This included a client memo exercise with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where the CDC asked for ideas for how it could better upskill its workforce in data analytics. Korene pitched that the CDC develop a data science workforce development program to train public health data scientists. “I loved the CDC project, because it allowed me to use my and G{Code}'s expertise in upskilling and workforce development. I think I could have really made an impact there.”

POST-FELLOWSHIP IMPACT

As a result of the fellowship, Korene and G{Code} know how to better advocate for policy ideas, especially during in-person meetings. Korene says that before the fellowship, her interactions with policymakers “weren't as effective as they could have been.” Coming out of the fellowship, she has a better understanding of “how to get my point across in these meetings more succinctly” and how to provide more detailed implementation details to encourage policymakers to “run with a policy idea.”

Korene and G{Code} also worked with the Hub after the in-person fellowship on a policy project: improving workforce development opportunities for Boston residents. Over 6 weeks, Korene crafted a recommendation and set of materials to encourage the City of Boston to build a portal that better disseminates workforce development opportunities to its residents.

During her fellowship, Korene says that she gained a new network and deep connections with her cohort that she will take with her for years to come. “Meeting the Hub staff and other nonprofit fellows, it's been an amazing journey and experience for me. . . . [W]hat the Hub is doing is going to have an incredible impact for me.”

About the Hub – The Aspen Tech Policy Hub is a West Coast policy incubator, training a new generation of tech policy entrepreneurs. It takes STEM experts, teaches them the policy process through fellowship and executive education programs, and encourages them to develop outside-the-box solutions to society's problems. For more information, visit www.aspentechpolicyhub.org.

About G{Code} – G{Code} is a nonprofit organization that aims to provide technical training and an incubator space for Black, Brown, and Indigenous women and nonbinary young adults so they can enter the tech industry. Its main initiatives include free virtual programs that serve as an introduction to technology; and an affordable housing space for its trainees that also serves as an early career incubator. For more information, visit <https://thegcodehouse.com/>.