

# Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools® Program

## 2014 Ella Baker Trainer Application Essay



The work of an Ella Baker Trainer is very important. As the CDF Freedom Schools® program continues to grow, CDF needs a dynamic team in place to facilitate trainings and provide technical assistance to our sponsor partners. The Ella Baker Trainer team must work well together, utilize each other's strengths to deliver strong, high quality national trainings that empower young adults in communities across the country to operate quality *CDF Freedom Schools* programs. We seek individuals who are knowledgeable about the *CDF Freedom Schools* program, understand the reasons behind each element of the program, and are able to communicate this knowledge in an engaging and effective manner.

Your application essay will help the selection team appreciate the gifts and talents you would bring to the position. Your application essay should follow the guidelines below in order to demonstrate your ability to complete all Ella Baker Trainer responsibilities at a high level of competence and professionalism. Your essay should reflect your knowledge of Mrs. Ella Josephine Baker, the significance of Ella Baker Trainers to CDF and the *CDF Freedom Schools* program, and the historical significance of the Freedom Schools movement.

1. **Describe your understanding of the five essential components of the *CDF Freedom Schools* program (High Quality Academic Enrichment, Intergenerational Servant Leadership Development, Civic Engagement and Social Action, Parent and Family Involvement, and Health, Mental Health, and Nutrition)**

- Include examples of strategies and tools you will use to teach the five essential components of the *CDF Freedom Schools* program, your blueprint for classroom setup to ensure intern engagement, ideas to promote higher order thinking skills and non-violent conflict resolution in the classroom, and meaningful social action advocacy.
- If you have ideas for improving national training, be sure to include them in your discussion with strategies for implementation.
- Your essay should not to exceed 2,000 words.

2. **Outline a specific personalized message about the value you will immediately add to the Ella Baker Trainer team.**

- Describe the skills you possess that will add to the success of the team. Make sure the selection committee knows what a valuable addition you will be to the team.
- Provide examples of past achievements that demonstrate your ability to serve as an Ella Baker Trainer.
- Describe what you will contribute to the Ella Baker Training team and how you will help ensure the team's success for the 2012 service year.