



Bowhay Institute *for*
Legislative Leadership Development
 MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



29th Annual

BOWHAY INSTITUTE *for* LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
 AUGUST 23-27, 2024 | MADISON, WISCONSIN

Application deadline: April 15, 2024



MLC Members:

Illinois | Indiana | Iowa | Kansas | Michigan | Minnesota | Nebraska | North Dakota | Ohio | Saskatchewan | South Dakota | Wisconsin

MLC Affiliate Members: Alberta | Manitoba | Ontario



**Midwestern
 Legislative
 Conference**

Presented by
 The Council of State Governments
 Midwestern Legislative Conference

"This experience was exactly what I needed as a new legislator."

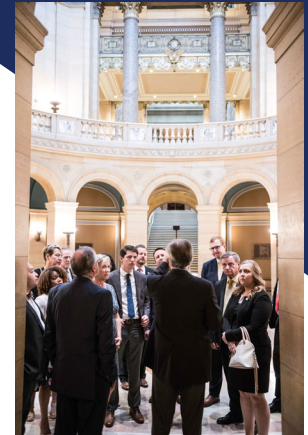
MLA Dana Skoropad, Saskatchewan
Class of 2021

"This is a jam-packed fellowship training with many opportunities to grow as a leader."

Rep. Donovan McKinney, Michigan
Class of 2023

"You will leave better informed and better prepared to make a true impact on your chamber, your legislative body, and your community."

Sen. Elgie Sims Jr., Illinois
Class of 2014



WHY APPLY FOR A BILLD FELLOWSHIP?

DEVELOP LEADERSHIP SKILLS BILLD is the only leadership institute designed exclusively for Midwestern legislators. Through a series of interactive workshops, the Bowhay Institute provides training to develop and sharpen the skills you need to be a more effective legislative leader.

IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF KEY REGIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES By focusing on the most important issues that state policymakers face today, scholars from Midwestern institutions and outside experts provide a context for you to effectively analyze policies and programs, evaluate information that you receive, and communicate successfully with constituents and colleagues.

NETWORK WITH THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST As a BILLD Fellow, you will be joined by some of the most promising new legislators from across the region. You will have the chance to share your knowledge, learn from one another's experiences, and forge relationships that will last long beyond your time in Madison.



WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Midwestern legislators in their first four years of legislative service are eligible to apply. Fellowships are awarded based on an applicant's ability to demonstrate leadership potential, dedication to public service, and commitment to the legislative process and institution. Through a competitive application process, fellowships are awarded annually to Midwestern lawmakers from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

"Great opportunity to connect with other legislators & learn tangible skills to become a more effective legislator."

Sen. John Fredrickson, Nebraska
Class of 2023

"I came empty and stuck. I left fully inspired, encouraged, and equipped with new ideas and knowing that I am not alone in navigating these political waters. A game-changer!"

Rep. Peri Pourier, South Dakota
Class of 2021

"A rare and powerful opportunity to learn with other political leaders. A time that challenges you, but also enriches you. Also, a place where partisanship is absent."

Rep. Spencer Igo, Minnesota
Class of 2023



HOW TO APPLY FOR A BILLD FELLOWSHIP

In addition to the application form contained in this packet, each applicant must submit two letters of recommendation, a current résumé, and a written essay. Please follow the guidelines in the “Application Components” section when completing and submitting the required materials.

All application materials must be received by CSG Midwest no later than **April 15, 2024**. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered. You will receive confirmation of the receipt of your application materials via email.

Visit csgmidwest.org to apply online.

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

- Midwestern legislators are awarded Fellowships through a competitive, nonpartisan process by the BILLD Steering Committee — a bipartisan group of legislators from each state in the region.
- Each BILLD Fellowship covers the cost of tuition, lodging, and meals.
- CSG Midwest offers financial assistance for travel to and from Madison, Wis. All Fellows will be eligible for a stipend that covers a portion of their travel costs.
- Attendance at BILLD is limited to BILLD Fellows, BILLD staff, and invited guests.
- Applicants will be notified of the Steering Committee’s decisions during the week of May 20.
- In order to maintain the integrity of the program, and as a professional courtesy to colleagues, individuals awarded Fellowships must confirm their attendance for the entire BILLD program. BILLD Fellows are expected to arrive by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 23, and stay through the program’s closing event on the evening of August 27. The BILLD Steering Committee reserves the right to withdraw the Fellowship of any participant unable to commit to being present for the entire program.

LOOKING FOR MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the CSG Midwest website (csgmidwest.org) for more information about the Bowhay Institute, including lists of past Fellows and a sample agenda.

Amanda G. Seidel | Policy Analyst | tel 630.925.1922 | aseidel@csg.org

“It is more than just a conference. It’s a program where you grow and that will make you challenge yourself.”

Rep. Tory Marie Blew, Kansas
Class of 2019

“An enriching, must-do experience for any new legislator.”

Sen. Don Harmon, Illinois
Class of 2005

“Participating in the BILLD program is a tremendous asset for legislators across the Midwest who want to better state government.”

Rep. Susan Manchester, Ohio
Class of 2022



APPLICATION COMPONENTS

Completed BILLD applications must be received by CSG Midwest no later than April 15.

Please make sure that you have submitted each of the following components of your application. Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered. You will receive confirmation of the receipt of your application materials via email message.

(1) APPLICATION FORM Complete the application form contained in this packet or apply online at csgmidwest.org.

(2) WRITTEN ESSAY Describe your qualifications for receiving a BILLD Fellowship by answering all of the following questions. Your essay must be limited to two typed pages.

- a. What is the policy area of greatest interest to you? Describe the role you play or expect to play in addressing this policy area.
- b. Describe how your profession/work or community service outside of the legislature has influenced your work as a lawmaker or approach to legislative service.
- c. There are a number of ways to exercise leadership. How would you describe your personal leadership style, and how do you effectively demonstrate leadership in the legislature?
- d. What do you hope to gain from participating in the BILLD program?

(3) CURRENT RÉSUMÉ Your résumé must be limited to two typed pages and include the following information, as applicable.

- Legislative background (first elected/appointed; number of years of legislative service)
- Legislative committees on which you currently serve
- Current and/or previous leadership roles in the legislature
- Prior elected office(s)
- Community service/volunteer activities
- Occupational and educational background

(4) TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Submit two personalized letters of recommendation written by state legislative colleagues and/or graduates of the Bowhay Institute. *Please note that members of the BILLD Steering Committee are not permitted to write letters of recommendation.*

Please instruct those writing letters to address your qualifications in the following areas:

- Leadership potential
- Dedication to public service
- Commitment to civility and collaborative solutions
- Commitment to the legislative process
- Desire to strengthen the legislative institution





APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____

Representative Senator

Month and year first elected/appointed to state legislature* _____

* List the month and year that the general election was held or that the appointment was made. Indicate if you were elected in a special election.

Elected Appointed

Preferred mailing address _____

Home address (if different) _____

Capitol phone _____ Business phone _____

Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

Email address _____

Alternate/staff email address _____

APPLICATION CHECKLIST: DUE APRIL 15 Late and/or incomplete applications will not be considered

To be considered for a BILLD Fellowship, make sure your application includes the following materials. See the "Application Components" section for complete details and instructions.

- Application form
- Written essay
- Résumé/biographical information
- Two letters of recommendation (please list names and titles)

(1) _____

(2) _____

HOW TO APPLY

MAIL

BILLD Steering Committee
CSG Midwest
701 East 22nd Street, Suite 110
Lombard, Illinois 60148

ONLINE csgmidwest.org/billd

EMAIL billd@csg.org

THE BOWHAY INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (BILLD)

Nearing its fourth decade, BILLD continues to be one of the only sources of training designed specifically for legislators early on in their legislative careers. The Institute offers newer legislators the opportunity for advanced instruction to develop their leadership skills and to effectively manage policy issues in a time of growing challenges in state government. By helping lawmakers refine their policy analysis skills and heighten their leadership skills, the Bowhay Institute helps ensure that future legislative leaders are prepared to meet the challenges they will face.

This summer, 39 legislators from the Midwest will gather in Madison, Wis., for the 29th annual Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD). The Midwestern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments is pleased to invite you to apply for a 2024 BILLD Fellowship. By applying, you will have the chance to learn with the best and brightest new legislators from across the region and join the ranks of more than 975 regional legislators who have successfully completed this program since 1995. If you strive to be an effective leader, an informed decision maker, and an astute policy analyst, BILLD is the program for you.

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS — MIDWESTERN OFFICE

For 90 years, The Council of State Governments, the nation's only nonpartisan association for all three branches of state government, has served officials in all 50 states and the U.S. territories. CSG is a regionally based national organization that promotes excellence in state government. CSG fosters the interstate exchange of information and ideas to help state officials advance public policy, and it offers unparalleled regional, national, and international opportunities for leadership development, collaboration, and interstate problem-solving.

CSG Midwest focuses on serving legislators and other state officials from the nation's heartland. Through our publications, online resources, networking opportunities, and leadership training, we provide policymakers with the tools they need to be effective state leaders.



BOWHAY INSTITUTE for LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE | THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS
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TEL 630.925.1922 | BILLD@CSG.ORG | CSGMIDWEST.ORG