



## 5 TIPS FOR WRITING YOUR HERLEAD APPLICATION

### WRITTEN BY:

The HERlead Team

Are you interested in applying to the HERlead Fellowship, but unsure of where to begin? Do you need some help making your application stand out from the crowd? The HERlead Team got together to share tips for making your 2020 HERlead application shine. You can also reach out with any specific questions to [HERlead@vitalvoices.org](mailto:HERlead@vitalvoices.org) and we will respond to your email within three business days.

This is the most critical piece of advice we can give. Applicants are often passionate about many different topics or have a lot of great ideas. However, we are really looking for applicants who have demonstrated their passion and are ready to take the next steps to make changes happen in their communities. We know that there are many topics in the world that need to be addressed, but in your application, focus on the issue you care about most. Where do YOU want to make change happen? And why is this important to you?

### SHARE YOUR PASSION 1

We are looking for young women who are both passionate about an issue and ready to make a difference. We want to invest in them and their big ideas. Have you already started planning? That's great! Be sure to share the steps you have taken. Odds are, there are other applicants who are interested in the same topic, so tell us why you are the person to tackle an issue and what you hope to accomplish!

### 2 GET CREATIVE!

Since we often review hundreds of applications, creative ones really stand out. Find ways to express yourself through your video, 3-sentence bio, role model, etc. Tell a personal story. Share what makes you unique, even if it is an interest outside of school and your extracurricular activities. Think outside the box —there are little ways to add a spark to your application without detracting from your passion and project idea. Do you have a unique role model or hobby? Are you talented in video production, music or graphic design? Presenting your unique self will help you stand out!

This is an important part of the application that is often overlooked. We want to know why you are interested in becoming a HERlead Fellow. How can we help you succeed?

## EXPLAIN WHY HERLEAD 3

How would you benefit from being a Fellow? Is it the community-impact grant, the mentoring or a community of passionate women? Let us know! This is a great opportunity for you to be creative and for your application to shine. We want to see that you would take advantage of all the opportunities we offer and that the HERlead Fellowship would help you achieve your goals.

## 4 TALK WITH YOUR RECOMMENDER

We read a lot of letters of recommendation! We highly suggest that you have a conversation with your teacher, coach, guidance counselor, etc. to explain why you are interested in applying for the HERlead Fellowship. Tell them about the issue you are passionate about and ask them to include this in the letter. When we read a letter of recommendation that shares the big ideas and passions of a student, it lets us know that she really does care about making change in her community. Make sure to remind them to submit the letter by the deadline, **Wednesday February 5 at midnight!** We do not consider applications complete if they do not have the letter of recommendation.

Spend some time reviewing your application before you send it in. Ask a friend or parent to give you honest

## PROOFREAD AND BE THOROUGH 5

feedback. Did you fully explain your idea? Does your application come across as genuine and thoughtful? What stands out about your application? These are all helpful pieces of feedback that a reviewer can give you. Also, while we know mistakes happen, too many spelling and grammar errors suggest that you did not take the time to review before submitting. These little details are important and indicate to us whether you are invested in your ideas and becoming a Fellow.

Don't forget to check out more tips for writing your HERlead Application, shared by a HERlead Fellow. You can find her article [here](#).

Good luck! We are looking forward to reviewing your application.