

## **>> I applied for Class 51 in 2020. Do I need to reapply?**

When the application system is reopened on Jan. 25, 2021, you will have the opportunity to update and resubmit your application. If you already completed an application to participate in Class 51 and received a confirmation, you do not need to reapply. You should have also received a response from our team related to whether you are eligible to move on to phase two of the application process. If you are unsure of your eligibility for phase two, please contact [jsparacino@agleaders.org](mailto:jsparacino@agleaders.org).

## **>> If COVID-19 restrictions are still in place in the fall, will there be postponements?**

Our team is working diligently to prepare for multiple scenarios. We are preparing for various learning models, including virtual, in-person and options that would provide opportunities for the fellows to meet with core faculty and one another in smaller groups. Class 51 is expected to begin its fellowship program in fall 2021, and we do not plan to initiate any postponements.

## **>> For those invited to participate in the third phase of the selection process, will in-person interviews still be conducted?**

Any decisions about in-person interviews will be informed by CDC, state, local and partner university COVID-19 requirements. If we cannot meet in person for these meetings, a virtual option will be provided.

## **>> Will the time commitment remain the same if sessions are conducted virtually or in a hybrid approach?**

Our expectation at this point is that the time commitment for this 17-month program will remain the same, with Class 51 fellows concluding their program in February 2023.

## **>> What will be done to ensure that the program is produced and delivered in such a way that allows for the core learning objectives to be met effectively in a hybrid or virtual model?**

The California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF) Education Team is thoughtfully preparing to have the tools in place to be ready to implement this program across multiple platforms to provide other modes of learning. Our existing learning objectives will continue to drive decision making related to the curriculum, its delivery and effectiveness. We do not anticipate dramatic changes to the learning objectives we have in place.

Our team of experienced professional educators continues to review and curate new tools and resources to supplement and reinforce learning. Further, leadership coaching is expected to continue playing a key role in providing individualized learning support for each fellow's personal development goals. This team continues to meet on a regular basis to review, evaluate and adjust as needed. We are committed to ensuring the program is delivered in the most effective and meaningful way possible, while observing state and local protocols for health and safety.

## **>> How might the program be delivered differently, given the contingency plans for COVID-19?**

In April and May 2020, we demonstrated with Class 50 that while virtual learning does not replace in-person education, some experiences are more conducive to virtual, and some can be easily adapted. While all participants would have preferred to meet in person, there was agreement that some kind of connection was better than not meeting at all. Virtual presentations may be used to supplement in-person presentations/discussions when face-to-face is not feasible.

Certain kinds of experiences simply cannot be replaced, namely the San Quentin seminar and international travel. However, we will be able to preserve the essence of the learning objectives by providing multimedia resources, guest speakers and structured project teams. The fellows will also practice investigative research, fact-finding and critical thinking skills. Once it is safe, it is our intention to resume these in-person experiences, even if in a modified way, while observing the necessary protocols to protect all parties involved.

## **>> How will decisions be made as we move from one phase to another?**

Decisions by the foundation will be informed by state and local requirements and governed by the board of directors, based on recommendations from the CALF Education Team. In addition, we will continue to work in collaboration with our four partner universities, aligning with their respective campus policies.