



# YDI Policy Academy Howard Cohort

**Why Howard**  
Howard University sits at the heart of Washington, DC—the seat of American democracy and a global diplomatic hub. As the nation's leading HBCU, Howard is the ideal launchpad for developing future civic leaders.



## Overview

The YDI Policy Academy will launch its inaugural cohort for Howard University students in Fall 2026. This paid nine-month fellowship prepares emerging civic leaders for public service through policy training, advocacy, mentoring, and experiential learning.



## Structure

A hybrid cohort featuring seminars, skills labs, guest speakers, and site visits across local, federal, and global policy institutions, plus a capstone project addressing real-world community challenges.



## Eligibility

Through a competitive process, YDI will select up to 10 Howard University students, with priority for first-generation students and aspiring leaders interested in policy, law, government, and social impact careers.



## Sponsorship

Sponsors build a diverse public policy pipeline by investing in fellowships, program delivery, mentorship, and career pathways. Founding Sponsors receive visibility, direct engagement with the inaugural cohort, and founding partner status in a national civic leadership pipeline.

**About YDI**  
Youth Democracy Institute builds a national civic leadership pipeline for youth ages 10–24 through camps, academies, and fellowships.

**YDI 2026 Initiatives**

- Leadership Academies
- Youth Power Series
- Democracy Forum
- Back to School Fall Affair



**Youth  
Democracy  
Institute**

Leaders start here

*YDI is a fiscally sponsored project of Social Good Fund, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization*

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