



Contact: Dr. Heike Boeltzig-Brown, Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI)

Phone: (+1) 781-525-2420

Email: heike.boeltzig@umb.edu

US Department of State: eca-press@state.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: Thursday, February 3, 2022

University of Massachusetts Boston Institute Launches International Fellowship Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement

BOSTON, MA – The Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts Boston, in partnership with Humanity & Inclusion (HI), has been awarded a grant from the US Department of State to develop and implement the **Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement**, a new professional program for emerging leaders in Africa to exchange and implement best practices for inclusive civic engagement.

The program will support approximately 19 disability rights professionals (Fellows) from **Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Ethiopia** to participate in a 5-week Fellowship Program on inclusive civic engagement. Fellows will focus on a key policy or practice issue related to disability and civic engagement in their home countries. We will individually match each Fellow to a US host site organization for their Fellowship placement.

Fellows will collaborate with colleagues from the US host site organizations to design an individual project action plan to implement upon returning home. US hosts may visit their respective Fellow's organizations in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, or Ethiopia to facilitate project sustainability and long-term collaboration.

The Professional Fellows Program on Inclusive Civic Engagement reflects the ICI's and HI's shared commitment to building sustainable partnerships that strengthen fully inclusive civic societies for people with disabilities.

About ICI

The Institute for Community Inclusion is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities based at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Founded in 1963, the ICI's mission is to promote inclusion and equity for people with disabilities in all aspects of society: education, employment, health care, and community life.

Toward this mission, the ICI provides research and program evaluation, training and consultation, policy analysis, and direct employment services in partnership with local, state, national, and international agencies; legislators; schools; institutes of higher education; employers; community and multicultural organizations; and people with disabilities and their family members.

100 Morrissey Blvd.

Boston, Massachusetts 02125 USA

Voice: (+1) 617-287-4300

TTY: (+1) 617-287-4350

Email: ici@umb.edu

Website: <https://www.communityinclusion.org/>

Facebook & Instagram: @CommunityInclusion

Twitter: @ICInclusion

US Department of State: eca-press@state.gov

###