



Job Description: AI Now Data Center Policy Fellow

Tech companies are rapidly expanding AI infrastructure: constructing data centers across the US and beyond, accelerating the buildout of dirty energy sources to power them, and seeking government funds and deregulation to speed up the process. This infrastructure expansion—aided by taxpayer dollars—is putting our environment, energy grid, water tables, public health, and public budgets at risk. Communities are left with higher energy bills, increased rates of air pollution, and few permanent, high-quality jobs. In response, there is growing opposition from communities, organizers, and policymakers seeking to protect their constituents.

The AI Now Institute is part of a nationwide coalition of groups resisting rampant AI data center expansion across the country. We recently released a [North Star Data Center Policy Toolkit](#) with local and state interventions to stop and limit data center development. We provide policy advising, trainings, and technical assistance to communities and policymakers.

The Role: We are hiring a skilled policy advocate to support community groups, organizers, and policymakers to identify and implement policy solutions to rampant data center growth.

The fellow's role will include:

- *Policy advising and technical assistance:* Adapt our mapping of policy interventions to specific jurisdictions. This includes analyzing local conditions and existing regulations, advising communities and policymakers, and producing briefings and written resources.
- *Drafting accessible guides and policy resources:* Research and draft short technical guides and how-to resources on various aspects of policy and regulation relating to data centers, as well as presentations and outreach materials.
- *Training coordination and/or delivery:* Support the development and implementation of in-person and virtual trainings on data center policy and related topics. Depending on the fellow's experience, this may include specific content delivery or focus on coordination.
- *Programmatic and project management support:* Provide administrative and communications support for coalition meetings, virtual workshops, in-person trainings, and/or participatory feedback processes for guides and toolkits.

What You Bring:

**Please note: We are particularly interested in candidates with lived experience in organizing or campaigning against data center development or similar infrastructure (fossil fuel infrastructure, fulfillment warehouses, other tech company projects). If you meet some but not all of the points below but are willing and eager to learn, please consider applying.*

We are looking for candidates with at least 5 years of relevant experience, which could look like:

- Experience in policy advocacy, policy implementation, and/or policy, economic, or legal research, either directly related to technology, AI, and corporate power, or adjacent areas
 - A law degree would be beneficial but is not essential.
- (Ideally) Technical or lived expertise in one or more of the following areas:

- Land use and zoning, energy policy, utility regulation, water regulations, fiscal and economic policy, environmental law and policy, local and state policymaking
- Skilled and comfortable communicating accessibly with a range of audiences (policymakers, community members, organizers, media), in writing and public speaking
- Strong organization and project management skills, including the ability to track and respond to continuous and diverse requests for support
- Experience with any of the following is a plus, but not required:
 - Coalition building and/or management
 - Participatory research or decision-making processes
 - Leading trainings, particularly political and popular education approaches

Job Details:

- **Compensation and Benefits:** The salary range is \$80-\$100,000 annually commensurate with experience. Full time employees are eligible for a very supportive benefit package with healthcare coverage 100% paid by the organization.
- **Start Date:** Ideal start date is February 2026, with flexibility for the right candidate.
- **Location:** US/remote, with a preference for candidates in the New York tri-state area or hubs of data center buildout. This role is remote with regular domestic travel required.

To Apply: Please email jobs@ainowinstitute.org with the application materials listed below by **end of day January 23, 2026.**

- Resume
- Written answers to the following three questions, maximum of 250 words each:
 - Why are you interested in the Data Center Policy Fellow role? What skills and/or lived experiences do you bring to this work?
 - AI Now's policy and research work is designed to directly support on-the-ground organizing and policymaking. Please share an example of how your past work has helped identify or implement organizing or policymaking interventions (or if it didn't, what approach you would take in this case).
 - In your experience or perspective, what policy interventions have the greatest potential to stop or restrict data center development? If you're not coming from data center work, what lessons from your other experience could translate to policymaking and advocacy in this space?
- Writing sample from past work, maximum of 3 pages (ideally a research or policy memo, or a similar document)

Submissions without questions answered or work samples included will not be considered as they will be deemed as incomplete. Please note that no cover letter is required.

About Us: The [AI Now Institute](#) is a research and policy organization shaping AI in the public interest. We do not accept funding from corporate donors, including the tech industry we aim to hold accountable. We have written extensively on [corporate power in the AI industry](#), [AI industrial policy](#), and the [climate costs of Big Tech](#).

AI Now is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate based on race, religion, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, national origin, veteran status, or any other protected status.