

STOP
KILLING
BLACK PEOPLE

BLACK
LIVES
MATTER



YOU'LL
NEVER HAVE THE
COMFORT OF
OUR SILENCE AGAIN



MAPB
FELLOWSHIP
LEGACY PROGRAM
2021

A National Crisis in Policing

Police Brutality is a national disgrace and a stain upon our country. Over 1,000 persons are killed by police every year in this country. News coverage and hashtags do not convey the destruction and havoc that police brutality causes families and communities. The horrors that engulf the lives of the victim's surviving loved ones are unseen by the general public, unknown, as are most killings by police. Many families are left in devastation, their family they once knew left in an irretrievable state.

We know from doing this advocacy work against police brutality for over seven years that it is the people in poorer neighborhoods that are over-policed, typically Black and Brown residents with more police interactions than in prosperous communities. Within these communities, too often over-policing and racial-profiling lead to the unjustifiable use of deadly force, even in routine traffic stops and wellness check calls. The victim's family is already financially struggling to make ends meet, and the sudden unexpected expenses and loss of the family breadwinner or a son or daughter's contribution to the household income can threaten the financial survival of these families.

The families are left in a tailspin with planning a funeral for their loved ones, who in most cases have no life or burial insurance. There is no government agency that we have been able to identify that will assist these families.¹ MAPB has been called upon to help with funeral expenses and, sometimes long after the funeral, to help purchase headstones and markers so that families can have a place to go and grieve for their loved ones.²

Parents are left to pick up the pieces when police kill their child, but more often we see that it is the Mother who takes the lead. Most Mothers will realize very quickly that there are no resources available to them. There isn't a space to navigate to the center of their pain, because while grieving they find themselves in an isolated space with no help from officials, clergy, and friends; in some cases, not even family members are available to assist them in this journey of grief. Their child – or husband – is dead, and not only dead, but murdered, and not only murdered, but killed by a police officer, who has taken the very life he should have protected, and who represents the state itself. In the midst of this heartbreaking, mind-bending grief, the Mother must try to gather information from the agency who hired, trained, and paid her child's killer. In our experience, Mothers have learned of their child's death from the press – in one case, a Mother learned details of her son's killing from the police chief's press conference on the second floor of police headquarters, while she sat alone in the first floor lobby flipping through news sites on her phone. She must try to counter the local police department's distorted picture of her child, stop the local media from demonizing her child. She must plan a funeral without, as noted, sufficient funds. She must try to put together a vigil for her child, to lift up her child's memory, to preserve the reputation of the person she and the family knew; and she must often steer her way through the competing agendas of attorneys and community leaders, whom she has never met.

This is the case with the vast majority of families suffering death at the hands of police. Their experience is quite unlike that of the very few cases, usually 3 or 4 out of 1,000 killed, which are taken up by the national media and high-profile lawyers. We shouldn't forget that in 2020, this year of renewed activism and widespread protest, that police had killed more than 200 people in America before plainclothes officers burst through Breonna Taylor's door as she slept in Louisville the night of March 13. Who says their names? Who remembers them outside of their own families? It is our experience that in the everyday, obscure police shootings, many local churches are too timid politically to reach out to families affected by police brutality.

There is very little help from their local and state elected officials. Without the skills of navigating “the system” most Mothers cannot even obtain autopsy reports, copies of the official investigation, or the personal belongings of their child. Without the help of groups like MAPB, most are certainly never granted a meeting with the District Attorney or the police chief.

A Mother's Response to the Crisis

MAPB's work is uniquely grounded in the lived experiences of family members in the aftermath of these official homicides. We know what they are going through, because we have been through it. The MAPB Fellowship Legacy Program is based on that experience, the experience of Mothers forced by an earthshaking tragedy to preserve not only the memory of their child lost forever, but also to preserve their surviving family in the face of often hostile government officials and an indifferent public.

Learning to Create Change



Collette Flanagan, founder of MAPB, will oversee the program, select the session instructors and mentors, and supervise program staff. Flanagan was selected in 2015 to become a prestigious Echoing Green Fellow and granted the Black Male Achievement Fellowship Award. Echoing Green is an innovative two-year program that identifies and nurtures emerging leaders by empowering and supporting these individuals with tools they need to positively impact the world and the communities they live in and serve. “It was a life-changing experience for me,” said Ms. Flanagan. “I’d been working to win justice

for my son Clinton for about two years before I joined Echoing Green’s Fellowship Program. The people I met, the support I received, and the affirmation of my ideals and goals for MAPB really helped me build the organization and contribute to the Movement nationwide more effectively. Echoing Green is in fact one of my inspirations for our new initiative with Mothers.” The MAPB Fellowship Program, like Echoing Green, will provide an ongoing support system and expert advisory group for alumni.

(For Echoing Green info: <https://echoinggreen.org/> and <https://fellows.echoinggreen.org/fellow/collette-flanagan/>)

The MAPB Fellowship Legacy Program is a two-year program designed for Mothers who have lost a child to extrajudicial killings by police. It is designed to motivate, inspire, and cultivate the Mothers, to build on their strengths to become effective change agents in their communities and beyond.

Through leadership development, community building, and narrative change, the MAPB fellowship supports the personal development and capacity of Mothers as leaders, to catalyze and participate in a broader movement to change policing in America.



¹ State Sponsored Victim Compensation Programs do not recognize any victim killed by any law enforcement agency and therefore no resources financially or therapeutically are available to victims of police brutality nor their family members; as they are available to other victims of crimes.

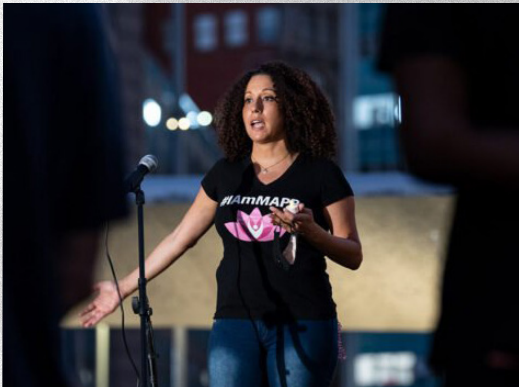
<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/crime-victims/crime-victims-compensation-program/eligibility-crime-victims-compensation-program>

² MAPB Headstone Project was created in 2017 out of the need and request from families that could not provide markers and or headstones for their children and loved ones killed by the police.



Goals of the Program:

1. Build the power and capacity to make change of Mothers who have lost a child to police brutality.
2. Create #fightingmothers that hold local police departments and district attorneys accountable for police abuse and misconduct, and advocate for policies that reimagine public safety beyond policing
3. Establish a broad network of activist Mothers, skilled in community organizing and policy advocacy, who work together and in coalition with other groups, to change criminal justice policy at the national level.



Expectations for the Fellows:

The initial fellowship program will run from Spring 2021 until Spring 2023, with ten fellows in the first round.

- Fellows will commit 10 hours weekly to the program.
- Fellows will participate in virtual and in-person sessions on policy development, organizing strategies, coalition building, interacting with public officials, and media training.
- Fellows will receive a stipend, laptop, internet/cell phone service, individualized coaching and other support to enhance their development.
- Fellows will develop and/or work on an issue campaign, participate in a 3-day retreat, and work with MAPB on an action day in Washington, DC, meeting with Congressional Representatives and staff.



Program Overview

The MAPB Fellowship Legacy Program is a two-year program designed from our experience of working closely with Mothers who have lost a child or other loved one to police brutality. MAPB has witnessed up close, with the “inside lens,” how an extrajudicial killing by police impacts the victim’s family, at times to the point of destruction.

Our fellowship program is designed to motivate, inspire, and create change agents of Mothers who have lost their children to police brutality. Who better to invest in than Mothers with the lived experience of this tragedy? We will provide Mothers with the tools and training they need to turn their grief into fuel for action and to become change agents in their communities.

We will seek out the Mother who wants to go further for justice, beyond advocating – as they should, as they must – for their own child. We will identify Mothers who recognize that bringing about change in the ways police interact with their communities will take a lot of work and commitment on their part, that it will take their willingness to learn how to organize, engage with civic leaders and public officials, and inspire their communities to advocate for social justice.

MAPB fellows will be trained how to think strategically; how to engage effectively with policymakers, district attorneys, law enforcement agencies, and media; and how to collaborate with other organizations.

- **Mentorship:** We will partner each Mother with a mentor during their fellowship; in turn, these same fellows will become future mentors for the program. This is the legacy in the MAPB Fellowship Legacy Program. Our goal is to create a sustained legacy in this Movement, to help create a solid foundation of change that individuals and groups can build upon in Black communities for years to come.
- **Policy work:** Our fellows will learn how and what policies are in place at the local, state, and national level. They will learn who are the key policymakers both in their communities and on a national level. Fellows will learn how to engage with these policymakers to create their seat at the table to influence change through their advocacy efforts by being included in policy-making deliberations.
- **Action on the Hill:** Our fellows will engage in An Action Day on the Hill in Washington, DC, during the legislative session, where they will meet with Congressional representatives, and key House and Senate staff members, in order to build relationships and to place before the Congress the human face of police brutality during hearings and deliberations to end over-policing, racial profiling, and unaccountable police use of deadly force.
- **Organizing:** We know through successful work against police brutality that people are inspired by the integrity of your work and by your track record of getting things done through effective organizing. Our fellows will learn how to organize, from their neighborhood to their mailing list, from chairing a meeting at their church or recreation center to online outreach, from organizing a rally to hosting a zoom call, from identifying opposition, to finding allies, to building coalitions. The fellows will become familiar with a full range of tools that organizers have used historically and today to make change – letters and emails to public officials, letters-to-the-editor and op-eds, vigils, protests, street theater, boycotts, strikes, rallies, voter drives, marches, and civil disobedience.
- **Program Launch:** First Round Fellows will be identified, interviewed, vetted, and selected February – March 2021. Announcement of Fellows and initial meeting, April 2021.



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