

*the* WOMEN'S  
FOUNDATION  
*of* CALIFORNIA

### **What is the Women's Policy Institute?**

Since 2003, the Women's Policy Institute has provided intensive advocacy and leadership training for up to 30 California women each year who are – through their existing leadership roles, prior experience on women's issues and deep connections to the grassroots community – poised to play a greater role in advocating for public policy that advances an agenda for women and girls. The success of the Institute has been phenomenal: in just the first four years, fellows helped to pass ten new laws that positively impact women's lives throughout California.

**If you are selected to participate in the Women's Policy Institute, you will attend four retreats, take part in weekly teleconferences and conduct various other activities aimed at providing "learning while doing" – all over the course of one year.** Each fellow will work collaboratively in a small team to develop and implement a policy advocacy project. Teams may choose to advocate for specific legislation, organize a legislative hearing, or participate in regulatory advocacy. Each team will be assigned a team mentor. Institute mentors are some of the most accomplished women's policy advocates and lobbyists in the state. Retreats provide an opportunity for teams to share tactics and lessons they learn as their projects progress. Retreats also are designed to allow room for plenty of interaction among people of diverse identities, socio-economic backgrounds and learning styles.

Team policy advocacy projects require fellows to exercise their personal resourcefulness as they practice working within the legislative process. Each fellow will participate in a process to identify others who share similar interests, form a team and, with their teams, choose a project. These projects bring the important added value of creating positive social change for women and girls. **Areas of focus for the 2008/2009 program will be: women's health, economic justice, environmental health and justice, criminal justice and reproductive health and justice.**

Fellows will learn how to leverage their natural abilities, creativity and experience to form powerful alliances and obtain the information and resources they need to accomplish their policy goals. Fellows graduate from the Women's Policy Institute better prepared to impact the public policy process – at whatever level they choose to engage – with ingenuity and confidence. After their year of training, fellows remain part of a network of Institute fellows and alums that serves as a resource for continued learning and movement building.

**Applications for the 2008/2009 Women's Policy Institute will be available in late April on the Women's Foundation of California's website.** Please visit [www.womensfoundca.org](http://www.womensfoundca.org) for more information.