



FELLOW PROFILE

Fellow's Name: Dorsa Djalilzadeh

Fellow's Partner Organization: The Bell Policy Center

What are your main responsibilities as a PIFP fellow?

As a fellow, I split my time fairly evenly between outreach and policy research. I also work on communications by writing some of our fundraising emails, creating social media graphics and working with the comms director on our language across each department. As part of outreach I am a member of several of the coalitions the Bell is part of and my main tasks are in client-facing roles making sure things like our ballot guide and our resources and expertise are disseminated and reach the right people. A couple of the policy projects I will be working on this year include the ballot guide, which we just finished up, women and girls in the workplace, childcare and respite care and retirement.

What's the most interesting thing you've learned in your fellowship so far?

I thought I knew a lot about what it was like to fundraise and work in a campaign, but working on the Payday Lending Rate Cap campaign (which will hopefully be on the ballot in November) has shown me a different side than just canvassing, for example. It's been really intriguing and exciting to be talking to the campaign manager and seeing all the behind the scenes people and tasks that all have to coordinate seamlessly to even get something drafted up and looking nice enough to go out and get signatures for. I've been exposed to a lot of invaluable information on seemingly basic things, like how to facilitate a meeting, that I know I'll use for the rest of my life as well.

Why did you want to become a PIFP Fellow?

I wanted to become a PIFP Fellow because the opportunity is a perfect combination between getting the experience and exposure I wanted as someone interested in helping people, particularly in the non-profit sector, and also working with organizations I might not have originally thought of when thinking about where I wanted to go after college. I honestly didn't ever think I would be working on economic policy but this fellowship has opened up many doors for me. The people I work with want to help develop me professionally as well, so I really can't imagine another program that would do as good a job at setting their fellows up for a successful future.

What activities outside of your work do you enjoy?

After 4 years at CC, I'm finding I finally have time to read a book for leisure! I love spending time with my friends exploring Denver's many bars, museums and parks (I live right by Cheeseman park). I'm also thinking about joining a roller derby team!

What is something most people would be surprised to know about you?

I was born and raised in Colorado and I still have never been skiing or snowboarding.