



SEED Impact Scholarships Have Far-Reaching Ripple Effects



“Reducing the stigma of poverty is part of ADF’s strategy to expand access to higher education. Before SEED this seemed impossible. I’ve gained skills to recognize opportunities, and tools for messaging to get what we need. SEED has changed my whole approach to my work and life.”

Diana Devlin is Co-Director of American Dream Films, a production and distribution company dedicated to producing films that tell the stories of low-income people seeking to access a college education to achieve a self-determined, financially secure life.

“As a student with a learning disability and receiving public assistance, earning my Masters of Social Work Education made me deeply appreciate the value of human development and the dignity of all people. With SEED I am learning and sharing skills that are essential to shift the impact of poverty in New York City.”



Roxanna Henry is Legal Advocate Organizer at Welfare Rights Initiative, which teaches students receiving public assistance how to use the fullest measure of current welfare laws and policies when advocating for their rights to access education.



“SEED tools, along with the diverse and dynamic learning community, have made me better able to analyze the different viewpoints in relational challenges. I’ve gained confidence to respond and support the best possible, collaborative solutions in my work on complex foster care, child endangerment, mental disability, juvenile justice, and education access issues.”

Yusylin Hsin is Program Coordinator for Vibrant Emotional Health. He helps advance the development of a system of care for children and youth with mental health challenges in New York City.

“As a young organization, we have a strong track record and small budget. SEED is equipping me to share responsibility, prioritize, and communicate what matters most to develop our next gen change-makers.”



Jennifer Magida is Founder and Executive Director of Youth Advocacy Corps, which equips young people from NYC communities impacted by poverty with the drive, tools and networks needed to respond to their own needs and the needs of their communities.

"I am using SEED tools and practices to help get diverse allies moving forward so our organization can gain visibility, national support, and funding to become stable into the future."

Bich Ha Pham is Board Member of the National Jobs for All Coalition, a diverse group of single-issue constituencies united in commitment to a new movement for full employment at livable wages. NJAC believes in the dignity of work and in a nation where everyone who wants to work can find a decent-paying job.



"SEED's training had an amazing impact on my ability to communicate. It is definitely a program many professional and community leaders can use to advance their missions and career goals."

Lilián Medina Romero is Co-Executive Director of Mil Mujeres, a multi-city direct service 501(c)(3) organization that addresses the growing need for bilingual legal services, with an emphasis on helping survivors of domestic and other traumatic violence. More than 5,000 Hispanic women immigrants served in 10 years.

"SEED has a great impact on the way I work and communicate with my colleagues. I can be more clear and sincere, and still be respectful. I notice better outcomes. I'm a better leader."

Shgoofa Rahmani is Case Manager at Women for Afghan Women, a grassroots civil society organization dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights disenfranchised Afghan women and girls in Afghanistan and New York.



"I serve families with many diverse needs. With SEED I have become more confident leading difficult conversations. I thank the SEED scholarship donor from the bottom of my heart for this chance to grow, manage my time, life responsibilities and conversations better."

Marzia Samadi is Care Manager at Advance Care Alliance of New York. ACA offers people with developmental disabilities and their families individualized supports for healthy, prosperous lives.

"SEED is helping me reach my full potential. I am sharing SEED's game-changing communication skills with organizations across the nation to help them in reaching their goals."

Toni Nicole Shoola is Founder of ShoLove Consulting, LLC, serving nonprofits with evaluation, graphic design and other services.

