BUFFALO WATER AND CODE FOR AMERICA ANNOUNCE COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP TO TRANSFORM GOVERNMENT

Fellowship Program to Develop Mobile-First Application Through Technology and Delivery-Driven Government

BUFFALO — As part of a 2019 fellowship program, Buffalo Water and Code for America today announced an innovative partnership to develop a mobile-first application so residents can more easily apply for benefits.

This program pairs local Code for America Brigade talent with local government, using technology and the principles of delivery-driven government to create long-lasting change that will transform government from the inside out.

Building on the original Code for America Fellowship model, the Community Fellowship bridges the talent gap in the tech and public service sectors by giving government staff the experience of working with technologists, and technologists the experience of working in government jobs.

Buffalo Water recently launched its affordable water program, but the application did not have a digital friendly option. The 2019 Buffalo Community Fellowship Cohort will develop a mobile-first web application designed for residents so that they can more easily apply to receive benefits from the affordable water program.

"I am excited to welcome two young tech professionals to our Buffalo Water community and have them create a user friendly interface that all of our residents can easily navigate," said Oluwole "OJ" McFoy, Chairman of the Buffalo Water Board, **"While many of our seasoned residents find our current application process manageable, we want to make sure that Buffalo Water is keeping up with the digital age and have all of our affordability programs easily accessible for all residents."**

Code for America chose seven projects for the 2019 Community Fellowships. In addition to Buffalo, cities chosen for the program include: Charlotte, Durham, Indianapolis, Miami, Santa Monica and Savannah. Individuals selected for the 2019 Community Fellowship cohort come from diverse backgrounds. Nearly 60 percent of this year's cohort is female, and 35 percent of the class is Black.

"Code for America's Community Fellowship program is at the core of our mission, making government that works in the digital age," said Hashim Mteuzi, senior manager for Network Talent Initiative at Code for America. **"This program allows people to solve real problems that are affecting their community. We are excited to connect our Brigade talent with Buffalo to make a sustainable impact on these communities."**

Code for America Fellows will spend six months working with government staff, researching user needs, meeting with key stakeholders, and improving service delivery to vulnerable populations. The product could be an early-stage application, an improved procurement process, an open data release, or other projects that improve the delivery of a government service or function, at a fraction of the typical cost to taxpayers.

About Code for America

Code for America believes government must work for the people, and by the people, in the digital age, starting with the people who need it most. We build digital services that enhance government capabilities, and we help others do the same across all levels of government. Through the help of thousands of volunteers across nearly 80 chapters nationwide, we have improved governments in various local communities and served as a catalyst for technological advancement. Our goal: a 21st century government that effectively and equitably serves all Americans.