

## CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

### EMPOWER+ RURAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

**Calling Rural Youth Leaders of Nasarawa state & the FCT!**

**Lead. Learn. Transform Your Community Through Structured Youth Participation.**

Are you a committed young leader passionate about community development and youth empowerment? The **EMPOWER+ Project** invites applications from exceptional youth to participate in an intensive leadership and governance training program focused on establishing **Sustainable Rural Youth Parliaments**.

#### **ELIGIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS:**

**NASARAWA STATE:** Akwanga, Keffi, Lafia

**FCT ABUJA:** Bwari, Kuje, Abaji

*You must be a CURRENT RESIDENT of one of these rural LGAs to apply.*

#### **ABOUT SSPL AND THE EMPOWER+ PROJECT**

System Strategy & Policy Lab (SSPL) is a leading Nigerian think-tank dedicated to advancing governance, policy innovation, and strategic development. With a strong focus on youth empowerment, SSPL works to bridge the gap between policy and practice, ensuring that young people are equipped to lead and contribute meaningfully to Nigeria's growth and development.

SSPL is proudly implementing the **EMPOWER+ Project**; an international youth empowerment initiative funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Programme. The project aims to establish and strengthen **Rural Youth Parliaments (RYPs)** across Sub-Saharan Africa, providing young people with the



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platform, skills, and voice to engage actively in governance and community development.

Through training, cross-cultural exchanges, policy dialogues, and digital engagement, EMPOWER+ connects African and European youth in a shared mission: to shape inclusive, sustainable, and youth-responsive policies.

## WHAT THE PROGRAM OFFERS:

### 1. Governance & Leadership Training:

- Masterclass in Rural Youth Parliament establishment and management
- Policy advocacy and community mobilization techniques
- Leadership development and public speaking excellence training
- Digital tools for community engagement and project management

### 2. Comprehensive Capacity Building:

- Intensive 8-week training program (hybrid: online + in-person sessions)
- Practical fieldwork in community organizing and exchange study
- Mentorship from governance experts and youth development specialists
- Certificate in Youth Leadership and Community Governance

### **3. Community Implementation Support:**

- Technical support to establish a Rural Youth Parliament in your community
- Resources to conduct Local Multiplier Events (LMEs) reaching 200+ community members
- Ongoing mentorship and network access for one year
- Opportunity to present community proposals to government stakeholders

#### **WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR:**

##### **Essential Qualifications:**

- **Age:** 18-30 years
- **Residency:** Must live in one of the eligible rural community LGAs listed above
- **Experience:** Minimum 2 year of active community engagement or leadership role
- **Education:** Minimum of secondary school completion (WAEC/NECO)
- **Availability:** Fully available for training (March-May 2026) and implementation phase (June-December 2026)

##### **Ideal Candidates Possess:**

- Proven experience in organizing community events or meetings



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- Demonstrated ability to mobilize youth in their locality
- Strong communication skills and ability to facilitate discussions
- Track record of community service or volunteer work
- Commitment to spending significant time on community development activities

### **Priority Consideration for:**

- Youth who have previously organized community events
- Members of existing youth groups or community associations
- Individuals with experience in facilitation or training roles
- Those who have successfully managed community projects
- Applicants who can demonstrate local networks and influence

### **HOW TO APPLY:**

**Application Period: 10th – 20th February 2026**

### **Application Focus Areas:**

- 1. Community Organizing Experience:** Describe events you have organized or led
- 2. Youth Mobilization Skills:** How have you successfully engaged other youth?



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**3. Local Multiplier Event Plan:** Outline how you would engage 200+ community members

**4. Sustainability Strategy:** How would you ensure the Rural Youth Parliament continues?

**Required Submission:**

1. Completed Application Form with detailed experience section
2. Community Leadership Portfolio: Evidence of past community work (photos, letters, reports)
3. Local Multiplier Event Proposal: 2-page plan for engaging your community
4. One Reference Letters: One from community leader or from youth association or representative

**Application Methods:**

Apply through the link here: <https://forms.gle/9VLobBWurNR6Jnru9>

**SELECTION PROCESS:**

**Stage 1: Document-Based Screening (21<sup>st</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

*Focus: Experience in community organizing and event management*

**Stage 2: Practical Assessment (26<sup>th</sup> Feb – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb)**

*Task: Design a community engagement plan for a given scenario*

**Stage 3: Interview & Facilitation Demo (4<sup>th</sup> Mar – 10<sup>th</sup> Mar)**

*Assessment: Communication skills and ability to lead discussions*

**Stage 4: Final Selection Announcement (13<sup>th</sup> Mar)**



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## PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR SELECTED LEADERS:

- Monthly capacity building stipend during training period
- Event implementation grant for Local Multiplier Events
- Mentorship package with regular expert guidance
- Networking opportunities with government and development partners
- Certification as a Certified Youth Parliament Facilitator

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES EXPECTED:

**By December 2026, each selected leader will:**

1. Establish a functional Rural Youth Parliament in their community
2. Conduct at least 2 Local Multiplier Events reaching 200+ participants
3. Develop and present a Community Youth Manifesto to local authorities
4. Train at least 20 other youth in community governance processes
5. Create a sustainability plan for continued youth engagement

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**Website:** <https://www.sspolicylab.com/projects/empower>



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