



We recently sat down with Melissa Malzkuhn, a 2018 Fellow who is trying to reinvent the storybook by building digital tools to improve deaf literacy. She shared insights into her work, her background, and her aspirations for the future. [Read her story to get an inside look at the life of an Obama Fellow, and then consider applying to become a Fellow yourself:](#)



“
This work is global work because deaf children all over the world have the same need from birth—they need access to sign language.”

—Melissa Malzkuhn,
2018 Obama Foundation Fellow

Like many of our Fellows, Melissa's mission is to create long-term, global change, and she's using innovative tools and strategies to get there. Her organization, Motion Light Lab, builds immersive learning experiences to help deaf children become literate in sign language. Her ultimate goal is to help people recognize that full access to sign language for deaf children is a human right.

We hope to help her get there. As Melissa says, "This Fellowship program has really helped me to see my work—and community involvement in general—through a new lens."

If you're working to build long-term change in your community, then please apply for the 2019 class before the September 18th deadline.

[Read Melissa's story to hear from a current Fellow, and consider applying to join our 2019 class before applications close:](#)

<https://www.obama.org/fellowship-profile/>

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The Obama Foundation

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