

The working definition of historically excluded communities created by VASEM for the COVES Policy Fellowship Program include

1. Individuals whose racial or ethnic makeup is from one of the following: Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous People or Native American or First Nation, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and two or more races, when one or more are from the preceding racial and ethnic categories in this list.
2. Individuals with disabilities as defined by the [American Disability Act of 1990](#).
3. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, such as first-generation students or those from a rural area, the foster care system, a low socioeconomic background, or who are/have been homeless.
4. Individuals from marginalized gender or sexual identities, such as women, nonbinary people, or those in the LGBTQ+ community.