

# The Class of 2024 Equal Justice Works Design-Your-Own Fellowship Application

## / Frequently Asked Questions

### When do applications close for the Class of 2024 Fellowship cycle?

Applications for the 2024 Design-Your-Own Fellowship are open until midnight Eastern Time on September 12, 2023. All components of the application must be completed in the application in the online platform, and the application officially submitted in the platform, by this time. [Visit here](#) to learn more about the Fellowship, and to access resources and information about the application process.

### What is the Fellowship period for the Class of 2024?

Fellowship projects are designed to last 24 months (two years). Class of 2024 Fellows will start their Fellowships in September 2024 and conclude in September 2026.

### Where do I submit my application?

Applications are completely entirely online at [this link](#). Please create and log in to familiarize yourself with the application questions and word/character limits for each question's response. This information is also contained in the PDF available [here](#); please note that it is for informational purposes only- only applications submitted via the online platform (Submittable) will be accepted.

### What kind of projects are you looking for in the Class of 2024?

Eligible projects are those that propose to serve underserved, disenfranchised communities and/or populations and/or tackle issues not adequately addressed in our legal system. Projects may include components such as direct representation, legal education, legal training, advocacy, community organizing, transactional work, policy work, litigation, administrative representation, or a combination of these strategies...and more!

Equal Justice Works will consider projects in any issue area except international work or standard criminal defense. Equal Justice Works Fellowships aim to create new public interest positions and therefore may not be used to fund general staff attorney position. Instead, they should provide Fellows with the opportunity to exercise leadership on a distinct project. Candidates and organizations work together to generate project proposals.

Projects should be innovative, discreet, distinctive from the work of a staff attorney at the Host Organization and have ambitious yet feasible SMART (specific,

measurable, achievable, realistic and timebound) goals for the 24-month duration of the Fellowship (September 2024-September 2026).

Please visit the [Meet Our Fellows page](#) to see an archive of current and past Fellows, host organizations and Fellowship projects for examples of successful projects that address an unmet legal need for an underserved population.

### **Do applicants or host organizations have to find or provide their own funding?**

No. Equal Justice Works is responsible for finding sponsors to fund projects. Sponsor interest and preferences vary by issue area and geography. Please see [here](#) for a regularly updated sponsor preference list. Equal Justice Works encourages applications from across issue areas and geographies, including those not listed in the sponsor preference document.

### **Where can I get more information, and possibly speak with an Equal Justice Works Fellowships Team member?**

Please register for Equal Justice Works Fellowships webinars [here](#). You may find recordings of past webinars [here](#). We strongly encourage you to read the applicant guide [here](#) and Host Organization guide [here](#). Sign up [here](#) to receive emails on the application process.

If your questions are not addressed in Equal Justice Works' publicly available resources, please reach out to the Equal Justice Works Fellowships Team at [fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org). We will do our best to respond to you in a timely manner with the information requested.

### **Do you need my GPA and/or transcripts?**

No. Transcripts and GPA are not required for the application. Applicants will be asked to provide a resume and a personal statement describing the candidate's interest in the program.

### **Do I have to take the bar exam in order to be eligible for a Fellowship?**

Yes. In order for students to be eligible for a Fellowship, they have to take the bar at the earliest possible sitting, generally in July, before the start of the Fellowship.

### **If I held a public interest attorney position before can I apply for the EJW Design-Your-Own Fellowship?**

No. Candidates are ineligible if they have previously held a full-time (30+ hours/week), permanent public interest attorney position. Experienced private sector lawyers who have demonstrated a commitment to public interest law and have the relevant skills and initiative to carry out the goals of the project are encouraged to apply.

### **What are the other eligibility requirements?**

Besides not having held a full-time (30+ hours/week), permanent public interest attorney position, to be eligible to be an Equal Justice Works Fellow in the Class of 2024, you must have graduated from an Equal Justice Works [Member Law School](#) before September 2024 with a J.D. or LL.M.

Applicants coming from bridge/gap fellowships, clerkships or AmeriCorps Legal Fellowships are eligible. Candidates, however, may not have participated previously in any major fellowship program such as the Skadden Fellowship Program, Echoing Green Fellowship, Soros Justice Fellowship, Justice Catalyst Fellowship and Immigrant Justice Corps Fellowship.

Those currently or previously involved in other Equal Justice Works programs are eligible to apply for the Design-Your-Own Fellowship.

We strongly encourage you to read the [applicant guide](#).

### **How long should my résumé be?**

Please limit your résumé to two pages unless additional information is necessary.

### **Can I apply with more than one project in a cycle?**

No. Applicants may submit only one application per Fellowship Cycle.

### **May my project application have more than one host organization?**

No. All project applications must have one host organization.

### **Should the two letters of recommendation be from different people than the person listed as the reference?**

Yes. The two letters of recommendation should be from different people than the person listed as the reference. The reference must be a professional reference and cannot be from your proposed host organization. You will be asked to provide the references' organization name, city and state of the organization, the time in which the work was performed and the name, phone number, and email address of the person serving as the reference.

Different individuals from the same organization may serve as letter recommenders and references, respectively.

### **Who should write the letters of recommendation, and how/where do they attach them to the application?**

Two letters of recommendation are required. The letters should be from current/former employers, professors, or people who know the candidate professionally or academically and can discuss the candidate's relevant skills/past involvement in public service work/public interest law. Please address the letters to the "Fellowship Committee." Once logged into the application, candidates may upload

the letters. The applicant must ensure that the letters are uploaded in time in order to click to submit the application no later than midnight Eastern on September 12, 2023.

If your letter writer would prefer to send the letters directly to Equal Justice Works, they may send letters to [Fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org](mailto:Fellowships@equaljusticeworks.org). Letters sent directly must be received no later than midnight Eastern on September 12, 2023.

**Can host organizations host more than one Equal Justice Works Fellow in the same Fellowship Class?**

Yes. A Host Organization may host more than one Fellow in the same Fellowship class, and/or host Fellows in consecutive Fellowship classes.

**What kind of organizations can serve as host organizations for Fellows?**

Host organizations must be non-profit organizations legally registered in the United States of America, including all states and territories.

**Does a Host Organization have to have an existing relationship with Equal Justice Works to host a Design-Your-Own Fellow?**

No. There is no distinction between new Host Organizations, Host Organizations that are currently hosting a Fellow, or Host Organizations that have previously hosted a Fellow in the application/selection process. The application does ask one to describe if an organization has hosted Equal Justice Works Fellows in the past.