

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

2023 Fellowship Advancement Fund

Updated Submission Dates***

We have updated the 2023 deadlines for the Fellowship Advancement Fund. **The upcoming due date is August 16** (For requests submitted on this date, *funds may be paid in 2024*). This will be the final due date for 2023. We have removed the September deadline.

1. I am having difficulty submitting my funding request through applying via the online portal.

In order to apply the Fellowship Advancement Fund, you must use an Individual Portal Application. If you use an organizational account, you will not be able to submit your funding request. Please use this guide to create a new Individual Portal account: <https://osf.screenstepslive.com/s/16486/m/75368/1/950617-individuals-registering-for-the-first-time>

If you still have trouble accessing your account, please email the Grantee Portal Support Team at GranteeFeedback@opensocietyfoundations.org.

2. The guidelines are broad. Can you share an example of the types of projects that will be considered?

We want to ensure these funds support the development and sustainability of our fellows and their work. Here are some examples of successful funding requests:

- Support for a fellow's direct benefit such as engaging a leadership coach and continuing to building networks in their field.
- Support to conduct research (which may include hiring consultants or research assistants) to build a
- Support to take advantage of a recent policy change to further advocate for the release of people who are incarcerated.
- Collaboration between fellows to develop a safety net plan to support fellows as they fight against smear campaigns and threats to their safety.

3. Are there any requests that will not be considered?

What is ineligible?

- Applications seeking support for their 501c3 will not be considered. These are considered grants to an organization.
- We do not support funding requests for people other than the Fellowship Alum. For instance, we will not provide support to fund salaries for your employees at your organization but we will still support consultant fees for individuals.
- We are unable to fund requests solely for equipment. This includes computers, printers, and furniture.

If you have additional questions about your funding request, please email fellowshipadvancementfund@opensocietyfoundations.org.

4. Can I request funds to extend my fellowship project (i.e., to continue to do what I've been doing under my fellowship project)?

Given that the FAF guidelines are relatively broad, we will consider requests for support to extend fellowship projects. However, for this type of request we look for strong signs that the extension will lead to an important breakthrough, development, or milestone in the work. In other words, we're unlikely to provide support for requests that simply are about getting more time to do the work. There should be something that this additional time clearly points toward (as the guidelines state, "seize upon a moment to significantly advance, elevate or expand [your] work in creative, timely, and strategic ways").

5. Does my funding request have to fit within an existing Open Society Foundations priority area? If so, where can I find out more about what those priority areas are?

The basic threshold is whether the work fits broadly within Open Society's mission to support efforts to build vibrant and inclusive democracies whose governments are accountable to their people. This mission is, in our minds, expansive enough to include just about any FAF request that might come our way. While there may be instances where we look favorably upon an FAF request that is a fit with an existing or emerging discrete or more focused body of work within Open Society, there equally could be interest in an FAF request on an issue that has not been on our radar. That is, we're most interested in requests that reflect

the work you are doing as a fellowship alum and that seek to support what is a priority for you in this moment.

6. Does my funding request have to directly relate to my fellowship project?

FAF requests do not have to directly relate to your fellowship project. However, the fact that only Open Society fellowship alums are eligible for FAF support reflects our belief that the fellowship project you originally took on (whether 5 years ago or 15 years ago) continues to have meaning—both for the field and for your professional trajectory. Requests that are clear about the connection to your original fellowship work are probably easier for us to assess in terms of how the request will support your growth and development, as well as that of your work. Those seeking FAF support for work or activities that bear little connection to their original fellowship project should explain the shift in another direction

7. Will I receive full funding?

Based on the number of requests we receive, the amounts of those requests, and our overall budget, we need to retain the discretion to fund requests at amounts below the amount requested. Please see FAQ 8 below for more on how we view requests across the funding range.

8. With the funding range so broad (\$1000 - \$75,000), how should I be thinking about the amount that I request? For example, are smaller requests viewed more favorably than larger requests?

One of our objectives in launching this pilot is to fund as many fellows as possible. As a practical matter, given that we have a finite amount of funds, this generally means that smaller requests—provided they fit within the basic parameters of the guidelines—are more likely to be funded. That being said, we also want to give fellows the flexibility to make larger requests if the circumstances merit. However, larger requests require closer scrutiny on our part and are less likely to be funded (since they'd consume larger portions of our overall budget)—and relatedly, if they are funded, they're less likely to be funded at the requested amount. Of course, there are exceptions and deviations from this, but the general principle remains: the smaller the request, the greater likelihood of funding (and funding at the requested amount). This does not mean that we don't want to see requests at or near the top end of our funding range; rather, that we hope applicants submitting such requests understand the context in which we're operating.