

Leadership in Government Fellowship

OPEN SOCIETY-U.S

Leadership in Government Fellowship

The Leadership in Government Fellowships seek applicants. Applications are due on July 16, 2019, (12:00 p.m. EDT) and must be submitted online via the Open Society Foundations' application portal. The online system will begin accepting applications on May 9, 2019. This document contains the eligibility guidelines (Part I) and information on how to apply (Part II).

1. Guidelines

Program Description

Open Society-U.S. will award individual grants to people who have played a significant role in advancing social change from within government in the United States and its territories at the city, county, tribal, state, and federal levels. The individual grant will allow recent government leaders to reflect on their public service, expand their network and knowledge, and insert their unique perspectives and expertise into the public dialogue. For the purposes of this solicitation of proposals, we refer to the selected individual grantees as fellows. Fellows will undertake a project of their choosing that will help them promote a richer and more nuanced understanding of the opportunities for making and implementing change from inside of government and, in turn, give them the chance to promote specific policy ideas beyond their former jurisdictions. Open Society-U.S. will consider proposals for projects that tackle one of the core issues on which we work.

While Open Society-U.S. devotes a considerable portion of our grant making resources to advocacy and support of nonprofit organizations, we are increasingly committed to investing in new voices that can inform and disrupt our collective thinking about advancing open society in the United States. These grants to former government staff and officials will help us find new leaders whose projects have the potential to identify different ideas and strategies for thinking about how reform is not just won, but implemented successfully.

Fellows will be able to take advantage of the considerable intellectual and logistical resources of the Open Society Foundations and contribute meaningfully to the Foundations' thinking in return. Fellows will also have opportunities to network with one another as a cohort. This networking and relationship building will also provide fellows with deeper connections and broader perspectives on social change in the United States.



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The Applicant

Open Society-U.S. seeks fellowship applicants who have served in senior-level government positions in the United States and its territories. Our ideal candidates are public servants who

have recently completed their time in government (within the last two years) or will have completed their term prior to the beginning of their fellowship and have served in the chief executive role or senior management of their agency or office. For example, we have had applicants and fellows with the following titles: Deputy Mayor, Commissioner, Chief of Staff, Sheriff, City Manager, Counsel, Senior Policy Advisor, Legislative Director, and Assistant Undersecretary.

Ideally, applicants see themselves serving as change agents within government in the future or are looking to apply their public service experience to an advocacy career. People of all political parties or ideologies are encouraged to apply, especially those who can challenge our thinking and approach to social change.

Successful applicants will demonstrate the following qualities: a keen interest in reflecting on their government service; a passion for solving problems and implementing policy; the desire to advance ideas beyond their former jurisdictions; and a desire to inject their work into the public dialogue. Applicants should also have an interest in engaging constructively with our grantee network, and in furthering one of the central goals of Open Society-U.S, as discussed below.

The fellowship program only accepts individual applications. Joint applications will not be considered.

The Topic of the Project

Open Society works to build vibrant and tolerant democracies whose governments are accountable to their citizens. Among the Foundations' core areas of concern are human rights, government transparency, access to information, access to justice, the promotion of civil society and social inclusion. While the United States has served as a beacon for democracy to many, there are significant and fundamental challenges to the full participation of all people in the nation's civic, political, and economic life. As part of a global network of foundations committed to local knowledge and national expertise, Open Society-U.S embraces the Foundations' overall mission and is committed to building a vibrant, democratic, inclusive, and a more just society in the United States and its territories.

The work of Open Society-U.S. is organized around four central goals:

1. **Justice:** We seek a society whose justice systems are fair and equitable for all, especially those who are most vulnerable, and whose public policies and institutions promote individual and community health and safety.
2. **Democratic Practice:** We seek to strengthen the quality and resilience of American democracy through inclusive and informed civic and political participation, and through accountable and effective institutions that adhere to and further the rule of law and human rights.

3. Equality: We seek to counteract the distortions of racial and ethnic discrimination by increasing the individual and organizational capacity of immigrants and people of color to access opportunity.
4. Economic Advancement: We seek to advance an economic system that provides full and equal economic opportunity for all, especially for marginalized and excluded individuals, by augmenting their participation in the economy and transforming the economic system in which that participation takes place.

The topic of the project should align with one or more of Open Society-U.S.'s goals. Project themes can focus on a particular issue or cut across these broad areas of interest. Applicants are encouraged to explore our website to acquaint themselves with the goals and grant making portfolios of Open Society-U.S.

A project might identify a problem in the implementation of policy that has yet to be fully recognized or discussed, offer new strategies on how to work with government and advocate for policy change, or highlight a different approach for legislative or executive action. Projects should not include lobbying or electioneering, as discussed in detail below.

The Project Deliverable

Applicants should carefully consider the impact they want their project to have and the audiences they wish to reach. They should then think creatively about the activities and project deliverable that will reach these audiences most effectively. We do not dictate the deliverables that applicants propose. Instead, we leave it to the applicants to determine the content and scope of the project deliverables and make a convincing case that the work is sufficiently ambitious. Deliverables may include, but are not limited to: a book, report, blog, white paper, implementation guide, public education project, or series of op-eds and media appearances. The intention is that these deliverables will be made available to a wide audience.

Fellows will want to provide an in-depth analysis of the issue and meet with organizations and actors both familiar and unfamiliar to them as part of their project, on all sides of the issue. In addition, fellows may want to use their grant to engage in activities such as participating in panel discussions, traveling to conferences, participating in policy debates, and promoting their ideas in other public venues. The Open Society Foundations will also encourage and support fellows to produce op-eds, develop quotes for the media, and do public appearances related to their fellowship project.

Not Sure if Your Project Fits? Submit an Email Inquiry

Applicants who are uncertain whether their government experience or proposed project fits within the parameters of the fellowships guidelines may submit an email inquiry before proceeding with the full application. The email should provide a brief (no more than 200

words) description of the proposed project, as well as some background information on the applicant, and should be sent to: USPFellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org. We will do our best to respond to all email inquiries within a week of their receipt. Applicants should send an email inquiry no later than July 8, 2019.

Open Society Foundations Network

Fellows are invited to join the rich and diverse Open Society community. Fellows are encouraged to take advantage of the Foundations' expansive reach and to bring new people and fresh ideas into the organization's domain. The program anticipates that most fellows will work from their home-base of operations, but will be invited, on occasion, to participate in activities at the organization's main offices in New York and in other places around the United States. Fellows are encouraged to participate in conferences and program events, as well as seminars involving Foundations' staff and outside colleagues. In most cases, Open Society-U.S. will advise fellows on ways to communicate their work to a broader audience and influence current debates. The Open Society Foundations staff will also work to integrate fellows into our network of individuals and organizations and expect fellows to make this a priority.

Fellowship Term

Open Society-U.S. will consider applicants from all parts of the United States and its territories. Though most fellowship terms are for one year, the program will consider requests for projects lasting up to eighteen months. The expectation is that fellows will spend sixty to eighty percent of their time (based on a 40-hour work week) over the course of the fellowship devoted to their project. Open Society-U.S. will inform applicants of their selection as fellows in early October 2019 and award grants in January 2020. Work must begin by the end of January 2020, with a possibility to start the fellowship earlier on a case-by-case basis. Open Society will publicly announce the fellows no later than February 2019. Fellows cannot have full-time employment during their fellowship term and cannot run for public office during their fellowship.

Fellowship Award

Fellows will receive a stipend in a general range of \$90,000–\$130,000 depending on percentage of time committed to the project.

In addition to the stipend, fellows will receive a small project budget. That budget may include expenses such as travel (including airfare and hotel), conference fees and health insurance. Fellowship expenses cannot include operational or programmatic costs, such as employees, physical infrastructure, office space, or computers. The purpose of the fellowship is to support individual fellows; therefore the program will only cover individual expenses.

The fellowship does not fund enrollment for degree or non-degree study at academic institutions, including dissertation research.

Please note grants to fellows are considered public information and the fellow's name and project description will be included in the Open Society Foundations' tax returns, as per IRS regulations.

Lobbying and Political Activity

Projects that include lobbying or political activities will not be funded. Please carefully review the Tax Law Lobbying Rules before submitting an application.

In addition, the entity within the Open Society Foundations that will issue these fellowships is a U.S. private foundation. As a U.S. private foundation, it is prohibited from participating or intervening in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate for public office. This prohibition applies to direct action by the foundation and to action funded through its grants. As a result, fellows may not use grant funds for prohibited political campaign intervention.

If awarded a fellowship, applicants are required to attend a training session on the tax law lobbying rules and political activity prohibition, conducted by the Open Society Foundations' Office of the General Counsel; and must agree to refrain from engaging in restricted lobbying and political activities during the term of the fellowship.

Selection Process

The selection committee will evaluate applications in consultation with Foundation colleagues and outside experts. Reviewers consider whether the applicant's balance of experience and profile, track record, and depth of expertise give reason to believe that the project will be successfully completed and will support the applicant's career trajectory. The committee will also consider how well the topic of the project aligns with Open Society-U.S.'s areas of work, and how the proposed work product will advance our and the field's understanding of how to make progress on the chosen issue(s). The selection committee will review proposals and nominate a select group of finalists. The finalists will be invited to interview in person with the selection committee at the Open Society Foundations in New York City. From the pool of finalists, a small number of applicants will be awarded fellowships.

Under certain circumstances, staff may, at different points in the selection process, reach out to specific candidates by phone or email to get answers to questions that may help us determine whether to select someone as a finalist or to award a fellowship.

Finalists may be required to provide references and a project budget.

The fellowship opportunity considers applications subject to funding availability.

2. Guidelines

Application Information

The application deadline is July 16, 2019 (12:00 p.m. EDT). Incomplete applications will not be given full consideration.

Online Submission

Applications must be submitted online via the Open Society Foundations [Grantee Communities Portal](#) (the Portal), which can also be accessed through the Leadership in Government Fellowships [website](#). Please register on the Portal and follow the instructions. A step-by-step guide and helpful information on how to use the Portal can be found on this [online support resource](#).

All communications with applicants will be sent to the email used to register with the Portal, so applicants should ensure that emails from the Open Society Foundations do not end up in their “Junk Mail” or “Spam” folder.

For technical assistance and support using the Portal, email:
granteefeedback@opensocietyfoundations.org.

Three important notes regarding the Portal

1. When you register, please be sure to click “Individual” and not “Organization.”
2. Once registered, please do not fill out the information for the “Bank Accounts,” “Academic History,” and “Work Experience” tabs in your user Profile.
3. You can start applications and come back to continue working on applications by logging back in to the Portal. Please make sure to hit submit when you are ready to submit your completed application to the Open Society Foundations.

Content of Complete Application

The Portal will begin accepting materials on May 9, 2019. When using the Portal, applicants will need to fill out personal information and must upload two documents:

1. Resume
2. Completed Cover Page and Proposal (downloaded from the Open Society [website](#))
 - Your proposal will consist of responses to the nine questions listed below and should be answered by using the proposal template attached to the cover page

which can be downloaded from OSF website. Each question has a word limit, which is the maximum amount of text needed to answer the question fully.

- Question 1 - Reflection on Government Service and Fellowship Opportunity (400 Words): How do you hope to use this fellowship to reflect on your time in government service and how will it help you make future career decisions? Please also provide information about why the fellowship, at this specific time, is the right next step for you.
- Question 2 - Government Experiences, Skills, and Insights (400 Words): What skills, experiences, and insights in senior-level government service, as well as any previous background, do you bring to your fellowship? What do your insights and lessons from your time in government offer advocates, policymakers, and social movements?
- Question 3 - Project Explanation (900 Words): What is your proposed project? Provide a clear, detailed and focused explanation of the project. Your answers should include the following: project goals and objectives, why it is needed at this time, a description of the people or communities affected by the issue, the final outcome or work product, and the audience or constituencies you hope to reach through this work. Explain how the project is expected to advance an issue (or set of issues) related to the Open Society Foundations and Open Society-U.S.'s goals or priorities and how will it inform public discourse and understanding on the chosen issue.
- Question 4 - Project Activities and Timeline (400 Words): Please provide a list and succinct explanation of your project activities and include a corresponding timeline.
- Question 5 – Project Impact (400 Words): What impact do you hope your project will have over the course of your fellowship and beyond? How will you measure your impact? (We are not asking for a comprehensive evaluation plan; we want to see the thought you have given to how you will know if your fellowship is successful.)
- Question 6 – People, Organizations, and Networks (250 Words): Who are the people and/or organizations in your network that will be important for informing your fellowship, and why? What people and organizations, or types of people and organizations, do you not yet know but hope to connect with in carrying out your project?
- Question 7 - Time Commitment (150 Words): What is the proposed percentage of time (60 to 80 percent) of a 40-hour work week that you will you devote to the project? Do you anticipate devoting 12 or 18 months to the fellowship? Describe any non-fellowship work responsibilities (e.g. consulting, hourly project-based work, etc.) or educational commitments that you expect to have during the course of your fellowship, including the approximate time to be devoted to these responsibilities or commitments.

- Question 8 – End of Government Service, Post-Government Restrictions, and Conflicts of Interest (150 Words): When was or is your last day of government service? Do you have any restrictions related to your post-government work or funding, and if so, how might these restrictions impact the proposal? Explain any conflicts of interest you have with the Open Society Foundations.
- Question 9 - Further Information: Is there any other information that you would like to provide?

Applicants who are uncertain whether some aspect of their proposed project fits within the parameters of the guidelines or whether the project is otherwise likely to be of interest may submit an email inquiry. The email should provide a brief (no more than 200 words) description of the proposed project, as well as some background information on the applicant, and should be sent to uspfellowships@opensocietyfoundations.org by July 8, 2019. Please do not submit an email inquiry before reviewing the appropriate fellowship's guidelines.

Selection Timeline

Application Deadline:	July 16, 2019 (12:00 p.m. EDT)
Finalists Notified:	Mid-September 2019 (All applicants will be notified via email whether they have been selected as a finalist.)
Finalist Interviews:	Week of September 17, 2019 (All finalist interviews will be held at the Open Society Foundations offices in New York City.)
Selected Fellows Notified:	Early to mid-October 2019
Fellowship Start:	January 2020, with a possibility to begin the fellowship earlier on a case-by-case basis.