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## GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE FELLOWSHIPS

### **Social Justice Fellowships:**

The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County is funding *Social Justice Fellowships*. The purpose of the fellowships is to fund emerging leaders with projects impacting social justice in Ventura County and to build future leaders for social justice in our community. Emerging leaders are those who have shown a potential for leadership, have a project addressing a social justice issue in the County and have a financial need, which if addressed, can increase their impact in the community.

Here are the characteristics for individual leaders eligible for fellowships:

- A student or member of the Ventura County community
- An individual or group of individuals who have limited experience in leadership but who have the potential to become a strong voice for progress in our county and who can initiate concrete change
- A leader(s) of a project impacting Ventura County with clear outputs and objectives that include action in the community involving advocacy, awareness building, or remedial action/service
- Being supported by a sponsor who is either an established non-profit in Ventura County or a subject matter expert, such as a professor who will be a mentor for the project
- A clear financial need which, if not addressed, will slow the project's progress

Grants for the Social Justice Fellowship can be up to \$12,500, given the duration of the project and the financial need. All projects for consideration will affect Ventura County and will align with the *Social Justice Fund for Ventura County's* mission to promote fairness, equity, and human rights. The grant application process requires filling out a Letter of Interest, and if shortlisted, presenting in front of the selection committee. Once selected, grantees and their coaches will attend 5 hours of project management training and be asked to present a mid-project update as well as a final report. Grantees might also be asked to provide photos and testimonials to help the Social Justice Fund raise funds for future grants.



## **How to Apply for a Grant**

Submit a Letter of Interest (LOI). Please follow the numbered questions below and number your responses. As you plan your responses, indicate how your work will meet the mission and vision of the Social Justice Fund. Please include a letter from your 501(c)(3) confirming they will be your sponsor and any proof of your financial situation.

Please limit your entire letter of interest to a maximum of 3 pages. Use an 11 point font or larger and make margins 0.5 inches minimum. Email your response to the *Social Justice Fund for Ventura County* at [socialjusticefundvc@gmail.com](mailto:socialjusticefundvc@gmail.com) by November 13, 2020.

### **Contents of the Letter of Interest for a Social Justice Fellowship:**

1. Briefly describe yourself. Highlight initiatives you have taken for social justice in the past. Emphasize any acts of leadership and initiative you have shown for which you are proud.
  2. What is the specific problem your project is addressing? Where is the pain?(the achievement gap in math is widening 10% per year, 40% of undocumented immigrants are victims of fraudulent acts, Parents from marginalized communities are 50% less active in schools associations, etc.).
  3. If your project is successful, what will change? What measurable goals do you have?
  4. List some major actions you plan to take. Explain how they are tied to your goal(s).
  5. How much financial support are you seeking from the Social Justice Fund? Why?
  6. Explain your financial status and how a grant will help the progress of the project?
  7. If you do not receive this funding, how do you plan to continue this work?
  8. Please include the name, address, phone number and email address of the person and organization who will be your sponsor and coach.
  9. Please submit a letter from this person explaining how they will support you. In addition to this letter, please submit two letters of recommendation from non-family members (past teachers, employers or others) who know your potential to lead.
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## **Use of Grant Money**

The purpose of the Social Justice Fellowship grant money is to enable emerging leaders to lead a project impacting social justice in Ventura County. For this reason, grant money may be used for the following reasons:

- To pay for the reasonable living expenses for the grantee that enable the grantee to spend more time on the project.
- To pay for expenses incurred for the project: renting space for an event, providing refreshments at such events, renting equipment to film, video production costs, travel costs associated with the project, etc.