



## 2025 Social Justice Fellowships Program Background and Fellowship Information

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### Background

The Social Justice Fund for Ventura County (SJFVC) has supported local nonprofit organizations since 2004. In 2020, we launched the *Social Justice Fellowships Program* to engage emerging leaders who have identified a local unfairness, inequity, or injustice and have developed a potential remedy that, with financial support and guidance, can improve our communities. The Program helps Fellows develop their skills and expand their knowledge as they work toward successfully completing project goals. This Program is ideal for residents who desire to mobilize their community and build connections with other emerging leaders.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Monday, August 25, 2025, at 6:00pm PDT**

(refer to *Application Instructions* for details)

### Eligibility

- A current student or resident of Ventura County for calendar years 2025 – 2026, and who will be at least 18 years of age on October 1, 2025.
- 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.
- Having a sponsor who is either an established nonprofit in Ventura County or a subject matter expert (such as a professor) who will serve as a mentor for the project.
- Having a clear financial need which, if not addressed, will slow the project's progress.

### Grant Details

Grants range from **\$5,000 to \$13,000**. All projects should focus on and be located within Ventura County and align with SJFVC's mission to promote fairness, equity, and human rights. Applicants should prepare and submit an application packet consisting of a Letter of Interest (LOI), a sponsor letter, and two (2) letters of recommendation – refer to the *Application Instructions*. Shortlisted candidates will present to our Selection Committee. We will provide guidance during every step of the application process. Successful applicants will be notified in or around September 2025, and social justice projects will start in October 2025.

### Use of Grant Money

The purpose of grant funds is to support Fellows leading and managing their social justice projects. Grant funds can:

- Pay for reasonable life expenses that enable Fellows to spend more time on the project.
- Pay for direct project expenses incurred, including renting space for an event, providing refreshments at events, renting equipment to film, video production costs, travel, materials, printing, etc.

### Expectations of Fellows

Attend an in-person orientation and at least 5 hours of project management and other training, attend monthly coaching sessions, share project data and photos, provide a mid-project update and a final report, and provide feedback and testimonies about their Fellowship experience. All Fellows will be asked to attend some fundraising events and be invited to approximately one SJFVC event or workshop each month. SJFVC will work with you and the other Fellows to find the best times to meet.