



Social Justice Fellowships Program 2026 – 2027 Application Instructions

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, August 28, 2026, at 6:00pm

Please email all required documents* to: info@socialjusticefundvc.org

Applicant** Eligibility

- A current Ventura County resident or student for calendar years 2026 and 2027.
- At least 18 years of age on October 1, 2026.

** Two close colleagues may apply together with a single group submission. Both members must meet all eligibility criteria, be listed in the LOI (see Submission Requirements below) and, if awarded, must participate in all scheduled Fellowship activities. Grant awards will not exceed the maximum, regardless of group size.

Social Justice Project Criteria

Proposed community-based projects must:

- be located within and benefit Ventura County.
- include clear objectives and outcomes.
- involve community actions – such as advocacy, awareness-building, direct services, etc.
- be grounded in lived experience.
- address an identified inequity, disparity, or injustice.
- align to SJFVC’s mission to promote fairness, equity, and human rights.

Submission Requirements – Please compose a **Letter of Interest (LOI)** as follows:

Formatting and Length: **11-point font** or larger, **0.5” margins** (minimum), **3 pages** maximum (4 pages for groups)
Please reply to the following items – number each response as indicated.

1. **Contact Information:** full name, email, physical mailing address, phone number.
2. **Age Confirmation:** state that you are or will be at least 18 years old on October 1, 2026.
3. **About You:** briefly describe yourself (yourselves, if applying as a group), include:
 - any highlights of your previous social justice activities, experiences, projects, etc.
 - anything you’ve done, big or small, that you’re proud of, especially moments where you stepped up, helped others, or made a situation better for your family, workplace, school, or community.
4. **Issue:** describe the specific social justice issue you’ve observed and how your project will address it.
Examples: educating adults on services to help marginalized residents, arranging affordable transportation for low-income workers, helping at-risk students pursuing further education, supporting foster children, etc.
5. **Project Goals and Outcomes:** What do you hope to achieve? If successful, what will change?
 - List key actions you plan to take and explain how they connect to your goals.
6. **Funding Request:** how much financial support will lead to a successful project conclusion?
 - Provide a budget and explain each expense. Be specific.
 - Fellowship grants range from \$6,000 up to \$14,000 maximum.

7. **Financial Need:** describe your financial situation. How will a grant support your project's progress.
8. **Sustainability:** if you are not selected for the Fellowships, how do you plan to continue this work?
9. **Sponsor:** partner with an established Ventura County nonprofit or a subject matter expert (such as a professor) who will serve as your Sponsor.
 - Sponsors are an additional resource for your project.
 - Provide your Sponsor's name, address, phone number and email address.

Required Additional Documents

- A letter from your Sponsor explaining how they will support you and your project (see item #9 above.)
- Two letters of recommendation from non-family members (teachers, employers, colleagues, etc.) who know your potential to lead.
 - If applying as a group, two letters of recommendation for each member.

Application Package Checklist*

- One (1) Letter of Interest (LOI)
- One (1) Letter from your Sponsor
- Two (2) Letters of Recommendation
 - Four (4) letters of recommendation (2 per member) if applying as a group.

Email a complete application package to info@socialjusticefundvc.org.

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We will send an email confirming receipt of your application.
Please contact us if you do not receive confirmation within 1 – 2 business days.

Applications will undergo several levels of review. We will notify new Fellows in the late September/early October timeframe.

For questions, please contact Jonathan "Mac" Macaranas at jon.mac@socialjusticefundvc.org.

SJFVC is committed to supporting all applicants, and we are more than happy to call or zoom with you to assist during the application process.



Fellowships Overview & Applicant Workshops

Scan the QR Code or

Click here <[link](#)> or

Type/Copy-Paste: <https://socialjusticefundvc.org/grant-process/>