

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the ELI Fellowship and who can apply?

The Environmental Leadership Initiative (ELI) aims to empower diverse environmental movement leaders from across the state of California, to drive environmental justice values, resources, and agendas in various sectors like agriculture, food systems, outdoor education, and Native land stewardship. Participant profiles include environmental leaders who are reflective of the diverse population of California, including BIPOC and immigrant communities, California Native and tribal communities, and representation of geographic diversity that includes both urban and rural communities, regardless of their roles or organizational relationships, who are committed to advancing environmental justice.

2. Does this fellowship offer reasonable accommodations?

This fellowship program is designed to be inclusive and accommodate the diverse needs of all participants, including those who are undocumented, those with special requirements, immunocompromised individuals, and differently-abled individuals. If you require any accommodations, please contact elifellowship@libertyhill.org.

3. How does the ELI Fellowship differ from other environmental justice fellowships?

ELI focuses on individual growth, organization/network strengthening, and enhancing power and influence for grassroots and community-based organizations. Fellows will receive approximately \$10,000 in professional development resources for individual growth. Organizations, with which fellows are affiliated, are eligible to receive a grant between \$25,000 - \$30,000.



4. What are the details about the unrestricted grant?

Organizations affiliated with Fellows are eligible to receive an unrestricted grant between \$25,000 and \$30,000. We recommend that organizations with which you are affiliated, whether through employment, volunteerism, or board participation, have mechanisms in place to receive a grant of \$25,000 to \$30,000. To access these grants, organizations must be affiliated with a 501(c)(3) or have a fiscal sponsor.

5. What are the details about the professional development funds?

Fellows will receive approximately \$10,000 in professional development resources for individual growth along with one-on-one coaching. The professional development funds will not be directly granted to the Fellows due to IRS reporting and tax collection requirements.

6. Is it necessary for applicants to hold employment positions within their affiliated organizations, or can they participate as volunteers?

No, applicants do not need to be employed by their affiliated organizations; they can be affiliated in a volunteer capacity. Please coordinate with your organization directly to ensure that there is capacity and ability to process and accept grants.

7. Can fellows use their professional development funds in Year 1 as opposed to Year 2?

No, year 1 of the fellowship is dedicated to building a foundation with facilitated learning. Year 2 of the ELI Fellowship is designed for Fellows to receive one-on-one coaching *while* engaging in professional development. Coaching will provide Fellows guidance and support on professional development funds usage during Year 2.

8. Is there a fee to apply?

No, there is no cost associated with the application or participation in the fellowship.



9. How do I apply for the ELI Fellowship and when is the application due?

The ELI Fellowship application opens on September 11, 2023, and closes on October 4, 2023. The application is accessible online via [<https://libertyhillorg.submittable.com/submit>]. You will be required to create an account with Submittable. It is a simple process that requires only an email. The platform will allow you to save your progress so that you may close and go back to your application as needed. Please email us with any questions.

10. What if I have accessibility needs to submit an application?

If you have any accessibility needs to be able to apply, please email us at elifellowship@libertyhill.org. We are happy to set up alternative means for us to get the information we need from you, including a call, online meeting or another means of communication.

11. What are the requirements to apply?

- Access to a computer/laptop
- Access to a reliable wi-fi
- Ability to travel for in-person sessions, events, and/or meetings. Travel expenses will be covered.
- Availability to participate in 12-month curriculum program and 12-month coaching and professional development program
- Attending ELI virtual and in-person events.

In the application, applicants will be asked to submit the following:

- Applicant's Information
- Three (3) short response questions in written, video, or audio format

12. How long is the ELI Fellowship and what is the time commitment?

- Year 1: 12-month program
 - Two 2-hour sessions per month
 - Weekly assignments and reading
 - Projects and field trips
- Year 2: 12-month program coaching, professional development, network building
 - Shifting from fellow to "alumni", each alumnus will be paired with a coach to receive 20 hours of coaching



- Develop a professional development plan to utilize funding for personal and professional growth
- Alumni engagement in-person and virtual events

13. What is the selection process?

The selection process involves an open application, a video, written, or audio responses. The selection process will consider diversity in experience to enrich peer-to-peer learning. Applications are reviewed by a review committee composed of our Advisory Board, staff, and consultant partners. Up to 20 fellows will be selected per cohort.

14. What topics will be covered in the ELI Fellowship?

The Fellowship will cover various topics including some of the examples below:

- The global and local implications of the doctrine of discovery and extractive economies
- Being in Relationship with the Lands, Waters, and Ancestral Caretakers of CA
- Structural and Environmental racism and the intersectional elements of oppression
- Exploring the unfolding of Environmental movements over time
- Radically imagining a Future of Liberation
- Conflict resolution


Each module will include the following components:

- **Facilitated** classes with a topic expert
- **Self-work:** Internal work/homework that fellows individually engage in outside of facilitated spaces
- **Care Practices** speaks to the development of self-care practices, self-management skills, as well as communal and collective care practices
- **Practicums** are the products of learning outcomes set in each module and are a combination of collective and individual projects that apply facilitated learning and self-work.

15. Are fellows required to meet in person?

The fellowship program will include a mix of both virtual and in-person meetings, happening statewide. We estimate that fellowship will meet approximately twice





in-person. Liberty Hill Foundation will work to coordinate travel for cohort participants and cover travel expenses.

16. Is there a required capstone project or thesis that fellows will be expected to complete?

Fellows will be required to participate in developing a collective or individual project that applies facilitated learning and self-work.

17. Who do I reach out to if I have more questions? For questions or more information, please contact us at elifellowship@libertyhill.org.

