



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Interfaith Innovation Fellowship 2025-26

Opportunity

Deepen your interfaith leadership skills by joining a select cohort of peers for a yearlong fellowship, and completing a project using principles of interfaith cooperation to directly respond to a need you've identified within your community.

The Interfaith Innovation Fellowship is intended to support the work of the Emerging Leaders Network to carry out projects that address a community need with an interfaith lens, and to support the recipient's development as an interfaith leader. In a cultural moment marked by toxic polarization, the Interfaith Innovation Fellowship aims to equip bridgebuilders, mobilizers, and visionaries with the resources to meet a need felt deeply in their community.

Grant Overview

To build healthy and thriving communities, our nation needs interfaith leaders who can break barriers and build bridges across differences. Members of Interfaith America's Emerging Leaders Network successfully collaborate across difference throughout many sectors of society by employing an interfaith lens and leveraging the gifts of America's religious diversity. Thus, we are proud to support the ongoing leadership development and impact of this network through the Interfaith Innovation Fellowship. The Fellowship awards \$5,000 to interfaith leaders with an inspirational vision for social change.

In addition to the \$5,000 award, Fellows will network with cohort members and learn from one another's projects, participate in an intensive in-person retreat in Chicago geared toward their professional development, and receive ongoing support to grow their leadership experience through mentorship with senior-level Interfaith America staff. We look forward to celebrating the impactful work of these Fellows who share Interfaith America's pluralistic vision of a country united around the common good.

Grant Requirements

Eligibility

All members of Interfaith America's Emerging Network are eligible to apply.

Funding Information

- The Innovation Fellowship award is \$5,000. Up to \$1,000 of the award can be used to support the awardee for their time. (If a second Emerging Leader is co-leading the project, an additional \$1,000 will be provided).
- Grant funds should primarily be used for purposes that directly support the grant proposal.
- The grantee is responsible for understanding and navigating their institutional or organizational grant processes.
- Those who receive funding may receive a 1099 tax form at the end of the year.

Restrictions

Grant funds may not be used for:

- Alcohol
- Expenses associated with political campaign activities, including directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office; making contributions to political campaigns; or attempting to influence legislation (i.e., lobbying)
- Capital funds or expenses (e.g., endowments, capital campaigns, annual funds, tuition, or student fees)
- While not restricted, we generally don't fund grantees to use a large portion of their funds for Interfaith America's fee-for-service offerings, such as campus consultations or speaking engagement fees.

Deliverables

Interfaith Innovation Fellows will be expected to:

- Attend an in-person retreat in Chicago in early December (exact date TBA)
- Attend and participate in at least 5 virtual meetings
- Submit a final report by June 30, 2026

Proposal Review & Selection

Through its grant programs, Interfaith America is committed to supporting initiatives that meaningfully engage people with a range of religious, philosophical, or ideological perspectives as well as diverse racial and ethnic identities. The selection committee will prioritize sector and institutional diversity among the selected fellows, and members of the selection committee will have a range of diverse identities and perspectives.



Program Timeline

- July 24, 2025: The application period is open.
- August 22, 2025: The application period is closed.
- September 20, 2025: Selection decisions communicated to applicants.
- October 1, 2025: Grant implementation period begins.
- Early December (exact date TBD): Fellows will meet for an in-person retreat in Chicago
- June 30, 2026: Grantees will provide a final report on their projects; grant implementation period concludes.

For further information, please contact Anne Coyne at acoyne@interfaithamerica.org or Amar D. Peterman at apeterman@interfaithamerica.org

Project Examples

<https://www.interfaithamerica.org/article/interfaith-innovation-fellowship-2024/>

Additional Resources

[Guide for Applying to Interfaith American Grants and Fellowships](#)