

CDF® Child Defender Fellowship – FAQ's

What exactly will Fellows do?

Across approximately 20 sessions covering six core themes, fellows will gain knowledge through an interactive web-video platform and be asked to put that knowledge in use. These sessions will generally take place every other week and run for approximately 1 to 2 hours. Each session will end with an assignment to the fellows involving an action to take in one's community about which each participant will report back to CDF prior to the next session.

What will Fellows learn?

The Child Defender Fellowship will provide an opportunity for participants to positively impact children's issues and take concrete steps to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline. Fellows can expect to gain critical knowledge on policy and legislation, learn about the history and tactics of nonviolent organizing, and practice using these tools and tactics in your community including promoting local awareness, showing the local impact of policy, direct engagement with legislators, constructive programming, and building a team, among others.

How long is the Fellowship?

The Fellowship will run from October 2017 through approximately June 2018

Is this a paid Fellowship?

No. This is an unpaid Fellowship.

What are the benefits of the Fellowship?

Fellows will gain:

- knowledge on key issues that impact children on the local, state, and national level;
- best practices in nonviolent organizing that can make you a more effective advocate for change in the community;
- experience independently implementing nonviolent actions in one's own community;
- a network of young leaders across the nation that are passionate about social justice; and
- partnership with a prestigious organization that is recognized as a voice for children.

Can students receive academic credit for the Fellowship?

No. This is a voluntary learning environment.

What would prevent an applicant from being admitted into the Fellowship?

There is an opportunity for applicants to express why they are signing up for Fellowship on the Interest Form. Fellows that indicate a lack of consistency with our values or an inability to understand nonviolent action as a tool for positive change, will not be invited to join the Fellowship.

Will students be required to pay for anything during the Fellowship?

No.

Is there an age limit of the Fellowship?

No. While there is a focus on training the next generation of nonviolent organizers, we recognized that people are willing to commit to making a difference before the age of 15 and well after 30. All ages are welcome to apply.

Which majors are welcome to apply for the Fellowship?

Students of every discipline are welcome to apply, as there is a need for every form of skill, interest, and expertise on the road to change.

What do Fellows need in order to be successful through the Fellowship?

In addition to a passion for service, a willingness to learn, and the ability to commit to the program, access to an internet and webcam capable device is necessary. This learning environment will be web-based, where we will create a virtual community for action throughout the year.

What type of experience do students need to make their application more competitive?

No previous community engagement or organizing experience is necessary. Neither is any completed coursework in political science, law, justice studies, etc. a factor in an applicant being accepted.

What is the deadline to express interest in the Fellowship?

We ask that interested students complete the interest form no later than September 29th. Applicants after that *may* be enrolled on a rolling basis until October 4th.

If I have more questions about the Fellowship, who should I contact?

Contact Madison Sampson at msampson@childrensdefense.org for more information. Learn more about the Children's Defense Fund at childrensdefense.org.