

Overview

The **Environmental Leadership Initiative (ELI)** is a fellowship program that will support three cohorts of 20 Environmental Justice leaders, offering aspiring leaders a transformative experience in environmental justice. This immersive program is designed to empower individuals from diverse backgrounds who are passionate about driving positive change in their communities. Through a combination of learning modules, collaborative projects, mentorship, personalized liberatory coaching, and networking opportunities, ELI fellows will deepen their understanding of environmental justice principles, engage in collective movement-building work, and develop the skills necessary to create lasting impact. This program is hosted by Liberty Hill Foundation, through the generous support and investment from the Hewlett Foundation and Packard Foundation. We work in partnership with the community-based Advisory Board who helped shape this initiative.

This immersive program is a 2+ year commitment:

- Year 1: Cohort-based facilitated learning
- Year 2: Professional development + individual coaching + networking opportunities

Purpose

The Environmental Leadership Initiative will be a program that nourishes leaders whose environmental justice work supports building power with the diverse populations of California—including BIPOC and immigrant communities, California Native and tribal communities, and geographically diverse regions that includes both urban and rural communities. The program will help strengthen their relationships with one another, and advance a deeper level of solidarity, advocacy, and collaboration among them. Additionally, this program will simultaneously support leaders in their individual paths of growth and influence along with strengthening their organizations and networks so that grassroots, California Native Nations, and community-based organizations will have



increased power and influence relative to Big Greens and other well-resourced organizations, agencies, and policy making groups.

Fellowship Benefits

- **Unrestricted general operating grants for non-profit organizations** that fellows are an employee of and/or affiliated with.
- **Professional development funds** that can be used toward conferences, certificates, or other engagements fellows identify as important to their professional development.
- Opportunity for **professional development coaching** to support intentional leadership growth and skills building.
- **Engagement in intentional community and network building** across Environmental justice leaders in the state of California
- **A deepened understanding** of a Liberatory leadership framework, grounded in a history of Environmental Justice to strengthen impact in environmental movement work.

Application & Fellowship Requirements

- Access to a computer or 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 a 12-month program of both virtual and in-person events in Year 1 of Programming (approximately February 2024 to March 2025).
- Availability to participate in 12-month coaching and professional development sessions in Year 2 of Programming (approximately from Spring 2025 to Spring 2026).
- A completed application with three (3) short responses in written or video format.



Important Dates & Deadlines

- **Application Opens** – September 11th, 2023 [Apply Now](#)
- **Application Deadline** – October 4th, 2023
- **Informational Webinars:**
 - Wednesday, September 20th at 1:00 p.m. [Register Here!](#)
 - Tuesday, September 26th at 4:00 p.m. [Register Here!](#)
- **Application Drop-In Office Hours:**
 - Monday, September 25th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Sign Up Here!](#)
 - Friday, September 29th from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Sign Up Here!](#)
 - Tuesday, October 3rd from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. [Sign Up Here!](#)
- **Fellow announcements** – November/December 2023
- **In-Person Fellowship Orientation** – February 2024
- **Year 1 of Fellowship Begins** – March 2024
- **Year 1 of Fellowship Ends** – March 2025

Informational Webinars

To learn more about the Environmental Leadership Initiative program and the application process, we encourage you to register for one of our informational webinars.

- Wednesday, September 20th from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. PT [Register Here!](#)
- Tuesday, September 26th from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. PT [Register Here!](#)

Contact Us

Please contact us with any comments or questions at elifellowship@libertyhill.org.

