

Fact Sheet

About

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.

Environmental Justice leaders at any stage of their professional career may apply. Fellows must have be in relationship to CBOs

2. 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 up to a \$60,000 over a two year period.

The [ELI Fellowship](#) engages a two pronged approach in its funding rooted in a belief that resourcing leaders and their movement ecosystem will strengthen statewide strategies to advance Environmental Justice in CA. This two year opportunity provides each ELI Fellow and their host organization a total up to \$60,000 in organizational grants over a two year period*. ELI grants aim to both support organizations as a field building strategy and to provide access to additional resources to support Fellow's successful engagement in the ELI Fellowship. Liberty Hill aims to advance this collaborative field building strategy and



leadership enhancing fellowship through requesting a co-designed budget between Fellows and their host organizations.

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

- a. Year 1: 12-month program
 - i. Two 2.5 hour sessions per month
 - ii. Weekly assignments and reading
 - iii. Individual and group projects
- b. Year 2: 12- month program coaching, professional development, network building
 - i. Shift into “alumni” status and receive 20 hours of coaching in Year 2
 - ii. Develop professional development plan to utilize funding for personal and professional growth
 - iii. Alumni engagement in-person and virtual events

4. Are fellows required to meet in person?

The fellowship program will include a mix of both virtual and in-person meetings, happening statewide. Fellows will meet approximately twice in-person. Liberty Hill Foundation will coordinate and cover travel for cohort participants.

5. Is there a set schedule of learning sessions and convenings?

Yes, learning sessions will be held twice a month from March 2025 to February 2026 on Wednesdays from 10:00a.m. – 12:30p.m. We encourage applicants to ensure they are able to make themselves available for the majority or all sessions and convenings.

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

- a. The Fellowship will cover various topics including some of the examples below:
 - i. The global and local implications of the doctrine of discovery and extractive economies
 - ii. Being in Relationship with the Lands, Waters, and Ancestral Caretakers of CA
 - iii. Structural and Environmental racism and the intersectional elements of oppression
 - iv. Exploring the unfolding of Environmental movements over time
 - v. Radically imagining a Future of Liberation
 - vi. Conflict resolution
- b. Each module will include the following components:
 - i. Facilitated classes with a topic expert



- ii. Self-work: Internal work/homework that fellows individually engage in outside of facilitated spaces
- iii. Care Practices speaks to the development of self-care practices, self-management skills, as well as communal and collective care practices
- iv. 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.

7. 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.

Application Process

1. Is there a fee to apply?

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

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

The [ELI Fellowship application](#) opens on September 10, 2024, and closes on October 8, 2024. The application is accessible online via [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.

3. 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.

4. What are the requirements to apply?

- a. Access to a computer/laptop and reliable wi-fi
- b. Ability to travel for two in-person convenings. Travel expenses will be covered.
- c. Availability to participate in a 12-month curriculum program from March 2025–2026 and 12-month coaching and professional development program March 2026–2027.

5. What information does the application ask for?



- a. In the application, applicants will be asked to submit the following:
 - i. Applicant's Information
 - ii. Host organization information
 - iii. Three (3) short response questions in written, video, or audio format

6. 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 19 fellows will be selected in cohort 2.

Host Organizations

1. What is a host organization in ELI? How is this important to the fellowship?

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A host organization is a CBO advancing Environmental Justice in CA that a fellow selects to engage in the ELI grant, which includes co-designing a budget, engaging in an on-going relationship with the fellow to advance movement work and remaining in communication with Liberty Hill Foundation for any grant requirements.

2. What are requirements for a host organization?

- a. All ELI grants must be disbursed to 501(c)(3) organizations that are Community Based Organizations (CBOs) operating in California.
- b. Organizations are considered CBOs if one or more of the following characteristics are met:
 - i. The majority of the governing body and staff consists of local residents,
 - ii. The main operating offices are in the community,
 - iii. Priority issue areas are identified and defined by residents,



- iv. Solutions to address priority issues are developed with residents, and program design, implementation, and evaluation components have residents intimately involved, in leadership positions
- v. Host organizations must center the advancement of Environmental Justice in California or at minimum engage in at least one campaign/program advancing Environmental Justice.

3. How are host organizations involved in the application process?

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4. What are the requirements to apply?

- a. ELI applications are only considered complete if the applicant provides information on a host organization, an org they select to receive grant.
- b. Host organizations must demonstrate their preparedness to accept and receive the first of three installments of the ELI grant in November 2024.
- c. Host organizations must submit a co-designed budget with their Fellow.

5. What communications can host organizations expect from Liberty Hill Foundation?

- a. Notification that we received an application with this organization listed
- b. Updates on application status
- c. Request for budget if applicant is accepted, to be due on October 31st.

