

# Overview

The [Environmental Leadership Initiative \(ELI\)](#) is a statewide fellowship that offers leaders advancing Environmental Justice a transformative experience in their leadership journey. This immersive fellowship is designed to empower leaders from diverse backgrounds whose passion and diligence drive positive change in their communities and advance Environmental Justice. Through an intentional balance of learning sessions, collaborative projects, tailored and personalized Liberatory coaching, and networking opportunities, ELI Fellows will deepen their understanding and orientation to Environmental Justice principles, engage in collective movement-building work, and more deeply cultivate the skills necessary to create lasting impact.

ELI is hosted by the Liberty Hill Foundation through the generous support and investment from the Hewlett Foundation and Packard Foundation, working in partnership with a community-based Advisory Council who supported the shaping of this initiative.

**This immersive program is a 2+ year commitment:**

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

## Purpose

The [ELI Fellowship](#) nourishes leaders whose work in Environmental Justice supports and advances power building with diverse and representative populations of California, including BIPOC and immigrant communities, California Native and tribal communities, and infrastructural and politically underrepresented regions comprised of both urban and rural communities, their relationships with one another, and fosters a deep level of solidarity, advocacy, and collaboration among them.

ELI simultaneously supports leaders in their individual leadership journeys while 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.

ELI engages a two pronged approach in its funding rooted in a belief that resourcing leaders and their movement ecosystem will strengthen statewide strategies and efforts to advance Environmental Justice in CA. This two-year opportunity provides each ELI Fellow and their host organization 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 Fellowship.

## Fellowship Benefits

### **Through the ELI Fellowship, Fellows will have access to:**

- Co-developed organizational grants up to \$60,000 for community-based organizations with whom fellows are in relationship with.
- Twelve months of curriculum designed and facilitated by Environmental Justice and Leadership experts.
- Professional development funds up to \$10,000 aimed to support fellows' leadership journeys; funding can be used toward conferences, certificates, or other engagements fellows identify as important to their professional development and leadership journey.
- Personalized coaching to support intentional leadership growth.

### **Through twelve months of the ELI Fellowship curriculum, Fellows will walk away with:**

- A deepened understanding of a Liberatory leadership framework, grounded in a history of Environmental Justice to strengthen impact in environmental movement work.
- An embodied understanding of their leadership tools and vision; tools to enhance their movement building skills and behaviors.
- Engagement in intentional community and network building across Environmental Justice leaders in the state of California.

## Application & Fellowship Requirements

- Access to a computer or laptop and reliable WiFi
- A completed application that includes three (3) short responses in written or video format and host organization designation and information



- Ability to travel for two (2) in-person convenings in year 1. *Travel expenses will be covered.*
- Availability to participate in a virtual 12-month program from **February 2025 to March 2026.**
- Availability to engage in 12-month coaching and professional development sessions in Year 2 of the ELI Fellowship from **March 2026 to February 2027.**

## Important Application Dates

- **Application Opens** – September 10, 2024
- **Application Deadline** – October 8, 2024
- **Application Informational Webinars**
  - September 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. ([Register here](#))
  - September 25, 2024 at 12 p.m. ([Register here](#))
- **Application Drop-In Hours**
  - September 19, 2024 at 11 a.m. ([Register here](#))
  - September 26, 2024 at 1 p.m. ([Register here](#))
- **Fellows Announced** – November 2024

## Important Program Dates

- **Virtual Welcome Hour** – February 18, 2025
- **In-Person Year 1 Fellowship Orientation** – Week of March 3, 2025
- **Virtual Cohort 1 Facilitated Learning** – March '25 to February '26
  - Learning sessions take place 2x/month on Weds from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- **In person MidPoint Convening** – Week of August 28, 2025
- **In-Person Fellowship Year 2 Orientation** – Week of March 3, 2026


## Informational Webinars

Learn more about the ELI Fellowship and application process by registering and attending one of our informational webinars.

- Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 4 p.m. ([Register here](#))
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 12 p.m. ([Register here](#))

## Application Drop in Hours





The ELI Fellowship Engagement team is hosting drop in hours to support applicant's specific inquiries about the application and fellowship. Join one the drop in hours for support on specific questions and one-on-one with a member of the ELI Fellowship Engagement Team.

- Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 11 a.m. ([Register here](#))
- Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 1 p.m. ([Register here](#))

## Contact Us

Please contact the ELI Fellowship team with any comments or questions at [elifellowship@libertyhill.org](mailto:elifellowship@libertyhill.org).

