



# The Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship

Webinar Information Sessions:

Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> 7:00 – 8:00pm

Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 – 2:00pm



# About the Nathan Cummings Foundation (NCF)

- ▶ The Nathan Cummings Foundation is rooted in the Jewish tradition and committed to democratic values and social justice, including fairness, diversity, and community. We seek to build a socially and economically just society that values nature and protects the ecological balance for future generations; promotes humane health care; and fosters arts and culture that enriches communities.
- ▶ The Foundation's approach to grantmaking embodies common principles in all of its programs:
  - ▶ concern for the poor, disadvantaged, and underserved;
  - ▶ respect for diversity;
  - ▶ promotion of understanding across cultures;
  - ▶ and empowerment of communities in need.

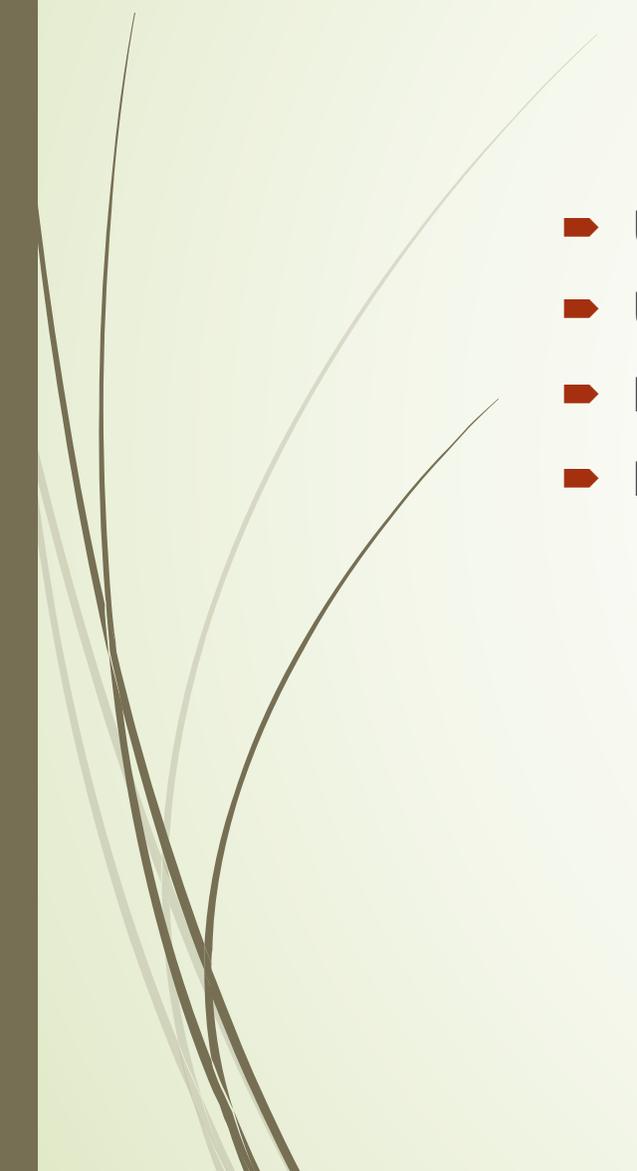


# About the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship

- ▶ The Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship supports visionary leaders by giving them boundless space to turn an inspired idea in the field of social justice into a world-changing reality.
- ▶ The initiative began as a three year pilot in 2012 and was adopted as an institutional program in November 2015.
- ▶ The Fellowship awards three individuals up to \$150,000 each to pursue an innovative project that seeks to address a challenge related to climate change or inequality – or within the intersection of these two major issues. An NCF Fellowship must align with at least one of the Foundation's core focus areas: Inclusive Clean Economy; Racial and Economic Justice; Corporate and Political Accountability; and Voice, Creativity and Culture.



# Updates to the Fellowship Program

- Unpacking the Integrated Framework
  - Understanding the Residency Requirement
  - Eligibility for Additional Award Funds
  - Expanding the Duration, Maximizing the Support
- 



# Introducing the Integrated Grantmaking Framework

- ▶ The Nathan Cummings Foundation invests in four focus areas that together advance our vision of a healthy planet and a healthy democracy.
- ▶ We will accelerate a just transition to a more **inclusive clean economy**, where communities on the front lines are creating solutions to the climate crisis and where prosperity for all people is not at odds with a healthy environment.
- ▶ We are determined to advance **racial and economic justice**, by unlocking markets that have excluded generations from economic opportunity, reforming systems that criminalize too many and lifting up new models of democratic inclusion.
- ▶ We will use our influence as an investor and grantmaker to increase **corporate and political accountability**, spurring greater transparency and more democratic systems and structures.
- ▶ We believe in the transformative power of the arts, contemplative practice and religious traditions to change hearts and minds. We seek to move people to act for social change by amplifying the **voices, creativity and culture** that can build empathy, nurture compassion and shift narratives about race, class, gender and ethnicity, who has power and how we value the planet.



# Increased Award and Extended Duration

- ▶ The original disbursement of \$100,000 will be awarded at the start of the fellowship term. The initial award will be made in a single disbursement. Upon successful completion of the first twelve months, the Foundation may award an additional \$50,000 to provide additional funding that should be used to leverage additional support for the project.
- ▶ The fellowship period may also be extended an additional six months upon successful review and submission of the final report. This additional time may be used to provide customized support to each fellow, connect fellows with aligned funding colleagues, grantees, and allies in the field.



# Fellowship Guidelines

- ▶ Proposed projects must be:
- ▶ Innovative, demonstrate exceptional vision, and relate to at least one of the major challenges the Foundation is dedicated to addressing:
- ▶ **Inequality**
- ▶ **Climate Change**
- ▶ **AND**
- ▶ The methodology must be rooted in at least one of the Foundation's focus areas:
- ▶ **Inclusive Clean Economy**
- ▶ **Racial and Economic Justice**
- ▶ **Corporate and Political Accountability**
- ▶ **Voice, Creativity and Culture**
- ▶ Fellows' projects will be expected to push NCF beyond its boundaries and open productive new lines of inquiry; ask provocative questions; challenge conventional wisdom; and develop new ideas, approaches and strategies.
- ▶ Fellows will be thought partners informing the Foundation's work and will have the use of a dedicated office at NCF's New York City headquarters, access to NCF staff and a network of NCF grantees, advisors and thought leaders to provide strategic counsel on their project goals.
- ▶ The selection committee will base their evaluation of each application on the following criteria: the applicant; the topic of the project; the project's alignment with the Foundation's DNA, issue areas and focus areas; the potential to forge a breakthrough solution; and the applicant's ability to carry out the proposed work.
- ▶ Applications received by **December 12, 2016**, will be evaluated by Spring 2017. Fellows will begin an 18-month term in the summer of 2017.



# Ideas Matter

- ▶ The Nathan Cummings Foundation values innovation and creativity. The strength of the idea matters most.
  - ▶ As you contemplate submitting an application, please ask yourself – what makes my idea ground breaking? Can my idea disrupt and/or revolutionize an industry, sector, mental model, system, etc?
  - ▶ Is my idea related to Climate Change and/ or Inequality and rooted in one or more focus areas of the Integrated Framework (REJ, ICE, CPA, VCC)?
  - ▶ Is my idea timely? Why does this idea need to be funded now?
- 



# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- ▶ ***Will the Nathan Cummings Foundation consider Fellowship proposals that do not fall under the two core program issues and align with at least one of NCF's four focus areas?***
  - ▶ No. The Fellowship committee will ONLY consider proposals that relate to [Inequality](#), [Climate Change](#) or the intersection of the two issue areas and that align with at least one core focus area. Please refer to the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship [guidelines page](#) for more details.
- ▶ ***Is the NCF Fellowship a 12-month or 18-month commitment?***
  - ▶ The Fellowship term is a commitment of at least 12 months. Upon successful completion of the first year, Fellows may receive an additional six months of support, at the Foundation's discretion. The entire Fellowship term is up to 18 months.
- ▶ ***What obligations will the Fellowship recipient have to the Nathan Cummings Foundation?***
  - ▶ The main responsibility of Fellows will be to develop the various aspects of his or her project, host a meeting at NCF on the project's topic and produce content for the NCF website. Fellows will also be considered an integral team member at NCF during the Fellowship term, provide thought leadership on various institutional priorities, and participate in board meetings, Fellowship alumni activities and other events of the Foundation.
- ▶ ***Is residency in New York City mandatory for applying for the Fellowship?***
  - ▶ No. Residency is not an eligibility requirement for the 2017-2018 Fellowship term. However, Fellows will be required to work from the NCF headquarters in New York City one week per quarter. Travel and lodging for the quarterly residency requirement should be factored into the fellowship budget.



# FAQs Cont....



- ▶ **What does the \$100,000 provided by the NCF Fellowship cover?**
  - ▶ The Fellowship stipend covers **living expenses, travel, research, conference, and consultant fees, etc.** If you can dream of it for your project, the expense must be covered through the fellowship award or through an alternative funding source.
- ▶ **Is the full \$150,000 award guaranteed? What does the additional \$50,000 cover?**
  - ▶ The NCF Fellowship awards an initial 12-month investment of \$100,000 each to three individuals to assist them in turning an inspired idea into a game-changing reality.
  - ▶ Upon completion of the first 12 months, Fellows will submit a report that outlines the progress made toward accomplishing their project's pre-determined markers for success. Based on that, an additional award may be disbursed to support the next phase of the Fellowship work and to leverage additional funding.



# FAQs Cont....

- ▶ ***Is there an application deadline?***

- ▶ The submission deadline is 11:59 pm EST on December 12, 2016. Applications received after that date will not be considered. For more information on how to apply visit the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship [guidelines page](#).

- ▶ ***How long is the review process?***

- ▶ Fellows will be selected within six months of the application deadline. There are three rounds of review. Applicants will be notified of their status as each stage progresses and selection decisions are made.

- ▶ ***When does the NCF Fellowship term begin and end?***

- ▶ Fellows selected in the spring of 2017 will begin the Fellowship term in June 2017. The Program runs through December 2018.



# FAQs Cont....



- ▶ ***Can multiple members of a group or organization apply to the Fellowship Program for the same project?***
  - ▶ No. The Fellowship Program is an opportunity for individuals. Multiple submissions for the same project will not be considered.
- ▶ ***Is the Fellowship opportunity limited to United States Citizens?***
  - ▶ Yes, the fellowship program is only open to U.S. Citizens.
- ▶ ***Does the fellowship support projects outside of the United States?***
  - ▶ No, fellowship projects are limited to domestic initiatives within the 50 states.
- ▶ ***Can I provide supplementary materials with my application, such as a dissertation, article or video?***
  - ▶ Please do not provide supplementary materials with the application. If you become a finalist, we may solicit such materials at that time.



# FAQs Cont....

- ▶ **Can compensation be used to hire contractors for the project?**
  - ▶ Budget specifics will be negotiated with Fellowship finalists.
- ▶ **Do Fellows have access to NCF benefits?**
  - ▶ The Foundation does not provide health insurance or other benefits to Fellows.
- ▶ **Do Fellows have to pay taxes on the fellowship award?**
  - ▶ Yes, when the fellowship is awarded all fellow are advised to reach out to their personal tax consultants to discuss the implications of the award. NCF does not provide additional funds to offset taxes. Fellows are encouraged to allocate a percentage of their award for tax purposes in their proposed budget.
- ▶ **Will Fellows be able to work with NCF grantee organizations if it relates to their project?**
  - ▶ Yes, as long as the project benefits our grantee partners and is not unduly burdensome. Each Fellow will work closely with the Fellowship Program Officer to determine the best way to make those connections.
- ▶ **Is there an opportunity to continue at the Nathan Cummings Foundation after the Fellowship?**
  - ▶ The Fellowship does not lead to a paid staff position at the Nathan Cummings Foundation after the Fellowship term.
- ▶ **What kind of support can Fellows expect after the 12-month term?**
  - ▶ Fellows will have access to the NCF network of grantees, affinity groups and staff, Fellowship alumni network and use of the NCF board room and atrium up to two times per year. Upon successful completion of the first year, Fellows may also receive an additional six months of financial support and in-house technical assistance.



# FAQs From 2016 Webinars

- ▶ Should existing project partnerships be mentioned in the application?
  - ▶ Yes, please include information about partnerships in the Project Proposal section of the application
- ▶ Can one person apply more than once per term?
  - ▶ No, only one application per person and per project idea will be considered.
- ▶ Does the character count include spaces?
  - ▶ Yes, please note the character count includes spaces. Be thorough, concise and demonstrate impact in your responses.
- ▶ Is the Nathan Cummings Foundation a public service employer?
  - ▶ No, NCF is a private foundation. Fellows are not eligible for loan forgiveness for the year because NCF is not a public service employer.
- ▶ Will NCF consider projects outside of the United States?
  - ▶ No, the NCF fellowship supports domestic projects executed in the 50 states.



# FAQs From 2016 Webinars Cont....

- ▶ Will NCF support projects that are based in the United States but have a global impact?
  - ▶ Yes.
- ▶ What portion of the funding should be allocated towards salaries?
  - ▶ We recommend no more than 60% of the budget should be allocated towards salaries.
- ▶ Is part-time work acceptable to maintain employment benefits during the fellowship?
  - ▶ No, fellows must commit 100% of their time to the fellowship during the first 12 months
- ▶ Is there flexibility with the start and end dates?
  - ▶ No. However, the residency weeks are determined by the cohort once on site during the initial week.



# FAQs From 2016 Webinars Cont....

- ▶ Is taking a course to get additional training to carry out your project an appropriate use of the budget?
  - ▶ No, taking an educational course with the fellowship funds is not permitted.
- ▶ Should the proposed budget be for 12 or 18 months?
  - ▶ The fellowship budget should reflect the entire scope, scale, and duration of the project. This may be greater than 18 months, where applicable.
- ▶ Should the project budget include other sources of funding? Will an applicant be penalized if they do not have additional sources of funding?
  - ▶ Yes, project budgets should reflect additional funding sources in all stages (committed, pending, anticipated). No, the NCF Fellowship welcomes projects at all stages of idea and funding maturation.
- ▶ Can an applicant apply with work that's already in progress or work that an existing non-profit has been developed to pursue?
  - ▶ Yes. However, the applicant must be exploring an uncharted area of the work and must be willing and able to relinquish all management, leadership, and financial control of the organization if selected as a fellow.



# FAQs From 2016 Webinars Cont....

- ▶ Can a project idea include a fundraising component?
  - ▶ Yes, a project can have a stipend, consultancy, and/ or fundraising element for raising additional revenue for the project
- ▶ Can a collaborator or university provide input or contribute research to the project?
  - ▶ Yes, the fellowship program encourages all partnerships that will allow the applicant to leverage financial and in-kind resources to accomplish the goals of the project.
- ▶ Can references be cited in the application?
  - ▶ Yes, please use parenthetical notations to site sources, if necessary, and upload a resource sheet in the supplemental documents section.
- ▶ Would the fellowship support international travel to attend conferences and conduct research related to the primary focus of the project?
  - ▶ Yes, the primary focus for the fellowship project must be domestic, however, international learning opportunities that contribute to the advancement of the project idea are permissible.



# FAQs From 2016 Webinars Cont....

- ▶ **What types of projects are not eligible for funding through the NCF Fellowship?**

- ▶ Academic scholarships
- ▶ Sponsorships, fundraising events, or dinners
- ▶ Projects addressing specific diseases
- ▶ Social services or direct services
- ▶ Capital campaigns, building campaigns, or endowment funds
- ▶ Holocaust or history-based projects
- ▶ Jewish, Hebrew, or arts education
- ▶ Projects addressing K-12 or higher education programs
- ▶ Congregations/Churches
- ▶ 501(c)(4) organizations
  - ▶ A 501(c)(4) is also a tax-exempt organization, but with the purpose to promote "the common good and general welfare of the community." 501(c)(4) organizations can engage in unlimited lobbying so long as it pertains to the organization's mission.
  - ▶ Types of 501(c)(4) organizations:
    - ▶ Social welfare organizations: Civic leagues or organizations not organized for profit but operated exclusively for the promotion of social welfare, and
    - ▶ Local associations of employees: the membership of which is limited to the employees of designated person(s) in a particular municipality, and the net earnings of which are devoted exclusively for the promotion of social welfare.



# Next Steps

- ▶ The submission deadline is 11:59 pm EST on December 12, 2016. Applications received after that date will not be considered. For more information on how to apply visit the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship [guidelines page](#).
- ▶ Please feel free to send all content-related questions to [fellowship@nathancummings.org](mailto:fellowship@nathancummings.org). We ask that you please allow 24 hours for a reply.
- ▶ Please send all questions that require technical assistance to [systems@nathancummings.org](mailto:systems@nathancummings.org) and copy [fellowship@nathancummings.org](mailto:fellowship@nathancummings.org). Please allow 24 hours for a reply.
- ▶ NCF staff will post the slides from both 60-minute webinars to provide an overview of the Fellowship and answer application questions from prospective fellows.
- ▶ Fellows selected in the spring of 2017 will begin the fellowship term in June 2017. The Program runs through December 2018.
- ▶ **Thank You for your time and considering the NCF Fellowship Program.**