

Just Leader Fellowship Application

CoFED's Just Leader Fellowship is an 8-month opportunity for QTBIPOC folks working to close the racial wealth gap by advancing community ownership in food and land systems. ([Read the full description of the fellowship here](#)).

This year we are deepening the work of food & land stewards in the Southeast region (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV) Our ideal applicant is ready to develop their skills to reshape food and land justice in their communities by bringing their project (seed) and growing it through the Fellowship.

We are committed to making our programming and offerings accessible. You can choose between submitting a written or audio application.

Responses to the following questions and your 2 letters of recommendation will be reviewed by a member of our Selection Committee. We thank you for your time and work and are so excited to learn about what you are creating.

If you have any questions or are experiencing any technological or language barriers please contact us at jlf@cofed.org

SECTION 1 - CONTACT INFO

1. Email Address
2. First Name
3. Last Name
4. Cooperative/Organization/Farm (If not applicable write N/A)
5. Address
6. Phone Number
7. Do you live & reside in the Southeast (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN, VA, WV)?
 - Yes
 - No - You must work & reside in the Southeast to be eligible.
8. Are you submitting a written or audio submission? *Mark only one oval.*

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- Written
- Audio - Skip to section 3 (Audio Submission)

SECTION 2 - TIME COMMITMENT

We are so excited that you are considering applying for this fellowship. The Fellowship is designed to be a space where we come together not just as individuals, but as a collective with a shared vision. Here, we believe that real transformation happens when we show up for one another, when we commit ourselves to a community that is rooted in trust, respect, and a common purpose. Our work—reimagining and transforming food and land systems through climate care work —will be made stronger by more than just our passive participation. It will take our collective commitment to the process and space of the Fellowship. We will work with leaders, elders, and wisdom-holders throughout this Fellowship, and we want to honor everyone’s time and experience with our collective presence.

We request you to commit to showing up fully, to engage deeply, and to contribute in meaningful ways. The strength of our collective efforts lies in the relationships we nurture, and the change we seek begins with each of us being present, accountable, and working side-by-side.

This is a space for growth, for learning, and for co-building new ways of being in relationship to the land and our planet. We look forward to building this community together, one step at a time, as we move toward transformation. Below are some of the expectations and invitations we would like the Fellows to commit to once selected. Please review them and let us know if you are able to commit to the invitations of the Fellowship, if selected.

1. Can you attend two in-person cohort meetings at the beginning/end of fellowship (May/December)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Other _____

2. Can you attend two monthly Zoom meetings (One 60-min individual project check-in & one 2.5-hour all fellows' co-learning session)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Other _____

3. Are you in a season where you can commit to a 5 day in-person gathering ([BUD](#)) sometime during the Fellowship?
 - Yes
 - No

Other _____

4. What are ways in which you feel supported to be in connection and build community with your cohort members?
5. What is your experience with building community?
6. CoFED has a culture of accountability towards one another and our communities. How do you define accountability? How do you expect your peers to hold you accountable during this fellowship?
7. **(Audio submission)** If you are submitting an audio application, please answer the application questions following the order in which they are listed in this form. While recording, please mitigate background noise and speak clearly for our audible processing. If you are not submitting an audio submission, skip this section.

SECTION 3 - JLF PROJECT

Please answer the questions below to share yourself and your vision with us at CoFED.

Click here to see some of the projects we've supported in the past.

Remember that 2 letters of recommendation are required to complete this application.

1. Tell us a bit about yourself. Who are you? Where are your roots? Who are your people?
2. What are your dreams for land and food liberation? How do you see this fellowship supporting your dreams to reshape food and land justice in your community?
3. Tell us about your proposed fellowship project. How does it support the transformational change of the food and land system?
4. How will you develop/implement your project within the 8-month timeframe?
5. How are you directly impacted by the issue(s) you are addressing?
6. Can your project happen successfully without CoFED's support? What support already exists for this project?
7. What type of leadership development would you like to see come out of this fellowship?

Check all that apply.

Grant Writing

Project Management

Networking

Storytelling/Narrative

Building

Financial Wellness

Other: _____

8. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

9. **(Audio submission)** If you are submitting an audio application, please answer the application questions following the order in which they are listed in this form. While recording, please mitigate background noise and speak clearly for our audio processing. Only audio files are accepted. If you are not submitting an audio submission, skip this section.

10. Please Upload your 2 letters of recommendation here.

11. If you would like to upload any additional supporting documents, please do so here.

SECTION 4 - STAY CONNECTED TO CoFED!

CoFED is here to be in relationship with stewards of food and land justice, and your work is a vital part of that ecosystem. We encourage you to follow us on social media to stay up to date on upcoming opportunities.

Instagram: [@thecofed](#)

Facebook: [TheCooperativeFoodEmpowermentDirective](#)

1. Would you like to be added to our newsletter?

Yes

No

2. How did you hear about JLF?