



Just Leader Fellowship Application 2026

* Asterisk means the question is required.

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the Just Leader Fellowship.

Who we are calling into this space: The Just Leader Fellowship is designed for individuals who identify or have background with QTBIPOC either personally or in the community and are land and food justice leaders and stewards - people between 18–30 years old who have lived experience in land stewardship, cooperative economics, food sovereignty, or movement ecosystem-building and have an emerging or nascent project ready for incubation inside of an 8-month container.

At CoFED, we believe leadership emerges through relationship - to land, community, and shared learning. JLF is not only a professional development opportunity; it is a container grounded in accountability, care, and collective transformation.

We invite applicants who are actively tending work in their communities and who are ready to deepen their practice in collaboration with peers, elders, and movement leaders.

Before You Begin

Please plan to spend **30–60 minutes** completing this application.

You will be asked to:

- Share about your journey and community work
- Describe your project
- Reflect on leadership and accountability
- Provide contact information for two recommenders

You may submit your responses **in writing or audio format**.

Written submissions have a **300** word limit for each question. Audio submissions will



have the same word limit.

If you have questions or encounter accessibility, technological, or language barriers, please contact: jlf@cofed.org

You may also [view the full application here](#) prior to completing/submitting.

Eligibility Self-Check

* Please confirm the following before continuing:

- I am between 18–30 years old
- I am a person who has background and knowledge with the QTBIPOC community
- I have at least 1–5 years of experience in food or land justice work
- I am actively engaged in a project, initiative, or organization
- I am able to commit to fellowship expectations, if selected, including access to necessary technology to attend virtual sessions via zoom
- I understand two recommendations are required
- I am rooted in transformative food & land systems work
- I reside and can legally work in the US
- My work centers on the collective liberation of Queer, Trans, Black, and Indigenous People of Color
- I am in a season where I can commit to monthly Zoom meetings, a 5 day in-person gathering (BUD)
- I have capacity to complete assigned readings, reflections, and pre-work in advance of sessions

Submission Format

We are committed to accessibility and honoring different communication styles.

* Please select your preferred format:

- Written responses
- Audio responses

If submitting audio:

- Please follow the order of questions
- Speak clearly and reduce background noise
- Respect word/time limits
- Upload files where prompted



Basic Information

* First Name: _____

* Last Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

* Location (City, Zip): _____

* Organization / Cooperative / Farm (or N/A): _____

* How long have you been engaged in food or land justice work?

- 0–2 years
- 2–5 years
- 5+ years

Fellowship Commitment

JLF is a shared learning space rooted in presence, accountability, and relationship-building. Fellows engage with peers, facilitators, and wisdom holders throughout the program.

Please indicate your availability:

* Can you attend **four** monthly virtual sessions?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

* Are you able to participate in a **5-day** in-person intensive during the fellowship?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

Personal Journey

You may submit your responses in either written or audio format. Written responses have a 300 word limit per question. Audio submissions should reflect the same length.



If you choose to submit audio responses, please write “N/A – audio submission” in the written response fields below.

1. * Tell us about yourself - your roots, people, and journey into food and land justice. **300 word limit.**
2. * What excites you about the Just Leader Fellowship? What made you apply? **300 word limit.**
3. * What are your dreams for land and food liberation? **300 word limit.**
4. * How do you imagine the fellowship supporting those dreams? **300 word limit.**

Project Vision

1. * Describe your project and the community it serves. **300 word limit.**
2. * Tell us about your proposed fellowship project. How does it support the transformational change of the food and land system? **300 word limit.**
3. * How will you develop/implement your project within the 8-month timeframe? **300 word limit.**
4. * Can your project happen successfully without CoFED's support? What support already exists for this project? **300 word limit.**

Leadership Development Interests

* Please select areas where you hope to grow:

- Grant Writing
- Project Management
- Networking
- Storytelling / Narrative Building
- Financial Wellness
- Other _____

Recommendations

Two recommendations are required to complete your application.

[Please use this link to access the Recommendation Google Form.](#) You are responsible for sending your recommenders the **recommendation form link** and your **project summary** to provide them with information about your application to the Just Leader Fellowship.



*** Recommender #1**

Name: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____

*** Recommender #2**

Name: _____
Email: _____
Relationship to you: _____

Sample Email to Send Recommenders

You may copy and use the text below:

Hello [Name],

I'm applying to the Just Leader Fellowship, an 8-month opportunity for QTBIPOC leaders working to close the racial wealth gap by advancing community ownership in food and land systems, through CoFED and would be honored if you could submit a brief recommendation supporting my application.

Form link: [\[Recommendation Link\]](#)

Deadline: [March 31]

Thank you for supporting my work and growth.

Warmly,
[Your Name]

Stay Connected

Would you like to join the CoFED newsletter?

- Yes
- No

How did you hear about JLF?



Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to share your work, vision, and care with us.

We are honored to witness the seeds you are planting in your communities and look forward to learning more about your journey.

If you have any questions, please visit our [FAQ page](#) and/or email us at jlf@cofed.org.