



**2024-2025
RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program
FAQ**

What is the time commitment to be a RISE Urban Leadership Fellow?

The RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program will take place from August 2024 through June 2025. Specific time commitments required of each RISE Fellow include:

- Participating in four (4) forums and three (3) technical sessions spread over the course of the program year. Forums are three (3) full-day sessions; each technical session is (3) hours long.
- Devoting up to five (5) hours each month to additional training, cohort meetings, and individual work with program faculty.
- Collaboratively developing and leading a Community Action Project that builds throughout the program year, putting new knowledge and skills into action.

Who is eligible to apply?

Candidates must be at least 18 years old and have obtained a high school diploma or GED, though we give preference to those who have some college experience and/or at least five (5) years of experience with working in communities.

What does “working in the community” mean?

This is by no means an exhaustive list, but we are looking for candidates who have worked in urban communities on issues including, but not limited to: education, civic engagement, public safety, environmental rights, arts and culture, health care, gang violence and prevention, workforce development, economic equity, affordable housing, and/or youth development.

Should I apply if I have less than five years of community-based experience?

Yes. Though we encourage those with at least five years of experience in communities to apply, we will consider and accept those who believe their work or personal experiences make them strong candidates for the RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program.

Do I need to live in San Diego to be a RISE Fellow?

Yes. All candidates must reside in San Diego County. A particular invitation is extended to applicants who represent and have a deep history in urban centers of the region.



Am I eligible to apply if I have a full-time job or I'm currently in school?

Yes. Those already professionally engaging in community work in urban regions and/or with some college experience (including current enrollment) are particularly encouraged to apply. Please note some, but not all, forum sessions will occur on weekdays, so you will need to plan accordingly. We are willing to assist in communicating with your employer/school.

What is the cost of the program?

For applicants selected to be RISE Fellows, participating in the program is at no cost. The primary investment you'll be making is in time. Meals connected to program events and meetings will be covered by the program.

The actual expense to run the program is \$9,500 per fellow. For those interested in making a tax-deductible, charitable contribution to support the fellowship program and/or sponsor a particular fellow, we invite you to reach out to Dominic Porter, Executive of RISE San Diego, at dominic@risesandiego.org.

What are the politics of the RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program and/or RISE San Diego organization?

RISE San Diego and the University of San Diego are non-partisan, non-political organizations. A key focus of the RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program is for fellows to learn how to navigate differences and bring people together toward solutions. We're looking for fellows with diverse political perspectives, but a shared passion for advancing the well-being of children, families, and communities.

How many fellows will be accepted?

We will accept up to 16 fellows for the 2024-2025 program year.

I have additional questions not covered here.

Please reach out to our team at fellows@risesandiego.org with any questions.