

## **The RISE Urban Leadership Fellows FAQs**

### **What do you mean when you say the program is 12 months long?**

When we say “the entire 12 months,” this does not mean a regular schedule of meetings or classes; instead, this means attending four (4), three and a half-day sessions spread over the course of the program year. During this time period, fellows are also expected to design, work on, and complete a community project of their choosing with the support of program faculty and coaches.

### **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.

### **Am I eligible to apply if I have a full-time job or 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 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.

### **What is the cost of the program?**

For applicants selected to be RISE Fellows, participating in the program is at no cost.

However, the actual expense to run the program is \$6,000 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 contact Dwayne Crenshaw, CEO of RISE San Diego, at (619) 531-7473 or [dwayne@risesandiego.org](mailto:dwayne@risesandiego.org) to discuss.

### **How many fellows will be accepted?**

We will accept up to 25 fellows for our inaugural class.

### **How should I submit my letters of recommendation?**

In addition to including in your application the names and email addresses of the people providing your letters of recommendation, we ask that you inform them to send their recommendations to us at [info@risesandiego.org](mailto:info@risesandiego.org).

### **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 a strong candidate for the RISE Urban Leadership Fellows Program.