



COURAGE FELLOWSHIP

In communities across the country, young people have been standing up, sharing their stories, and demanding a safer future for their families and friends. Their energy has fueled efforts to make America safer from gun violence. Giffords launched the Courage Fellowship program in 2018 in order to provide a select group of young people the opportunity to refine their skills and work together to reduce gun violence. This fellowship provides individuals with the tools and resources to support gun violence prevention efforts in communities across the country. **Giffords is proud to announce that the application for the fifth class of Courage Fellows is now open.**

Over the course of four months, Courage Fellows between the ages of 18 and 22 will be placed at the heart of the gun violence prevention discussion and engage in an array of **activities that focus on advocacy and effective organizing.**

We are excited to offer the program in-person in Washington DC in Spring 2023, and we will be taking precautions to keep all participants safe and healthy. However, in-person trainings and events are subject to public health considerations and may change to a virtual environment if necessary.

Note: Giffords is also hoping to host a class of Courage Fellows in the Fall of 2023. If you would be interested in also being considered for that class, please indicate your interest in your application materials.



ABOUT GIFFORDS

Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, Giffords is an organization that works across advocacy, legislation, litigation, and research to save lives from gun violence. Since 2013, Giffords has helped write, pass, and enact legislation that is reducing gun violence and saving lives. Against fierce opposition, we have worked to pass over 350 new gun safety laws in 45 states and Washington DC. We are also leading the fight against the gun lobby's dangerous agenda by introducing and passing bipartisan solutions to make our country safer from gun violence.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the fifth class of Courage Fellows is December 5, 2022 at 12 pm ET.

Please attach your application as a PDF and email it to couragefellows@giffords.org. If you have technical difficulties or questions, please email couragefellows@giffords.org. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

COURAGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Fellows will participate in a leadership development program designed specifically for 18 to 22-year-olds interested in gun violence prevention advocacy.

Throughout the program, Fellows will:

- › Learn from nationally recognized leaders in the gun violence prevention and greater progressive movements
- › Network with other young activists from around the country, including past Courage Fellows
- › Develop and implement a gun violence prevention project in their local communities
- › Build critical team-building, communication, organizing, and advocacy skills
- › Meet with legislators to discuss the importance of gun violence prevention efforts

The primary program components for the Courage Fellowship include:

- › Two 3-day trainings in Washington DC
 - › FLY IN 1: March 3-5, 2023
 - › FLY IN 2: June 12-14, 2023
- › Regular check-ins and mentorship opportunities from Giffords staff
- › A lobbying day on Capitol Hill
- › Creation and implementation of a community engagement project with support from Giffords

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

We're looking for the next generation of leaders in the gun violence prevention movement. The ideal candidate will:

- › Have demonstrated interest in politics, community organizing, activism, or volunteerism
- › Be willing to learn new skills
- › Have a strong desire to become (or already are) active in the gun violence prevention movement



Being a Courage Fellow not only gave me connections and a political education, but inspiration and the incredible feeling that I wasn't quite so alone in this fight."

ELLIE YOUNGER, COURAGE FELLOWSHIP ALUMNUS



CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Will be 18–22 years old on March 3, 2023
2. Willing to travel to Washington DC for the above listed trainings (all travel-related costs will be covered by Giffords)
3. Able to attend the entirety of both trainings
4. Able to attend monthly webinars between fly-ins from 7-8 pm ET on a weekday
5. Willing to be a public spokesperson for Giffords
6. Must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19
7. Willing to be tested for Covid-19 before and during all in-person trainings

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

1. Biographical and contact info

Please include the following information:

- › Full name
- › Birth date
- › Hometown
- › Current town of residence
- › Current year in school
- › School attending
- › Phone number

2. Candidates are required to write one short essay (no more than 750 words) answering the following questions:

- › What are your thoughts on the tragic epidemic of gun violence plaguing our nation?
- › How would you organize your generation to prevent gun violence?
- › What do you hope to gain from this opportunity?

3. Resume

All candidates should submit a resume detailing their work and/or volunteer experience. If you do not already have one, a sample resume can be found [here](#).

4. If you are not invited to join the fifth cohort of Courage Fellows this Spring, would you be interested in being considered for the sixth cohort in Fall 2023?



The Giffords Courage Fellowship gave me an experience unlike anything else. The comprehensive trainings set me up for immense success as an advocate and I wouldn't trade that for anything. Plus, the people I've met through this program have become some of my best friends and I can't imagine doing this work without them!"

**ELLIE YOUNGER, COURAGE
FELLOWSHIP ALUMNUS**



FAQS

Do I need experience in gun violence prevention to apply?

No. We are looking to build a diverse class of Fellows with varying backgrounds and experiences. The only requirement is that you are passionate about fighting gun violence and willing to work with others towards this shared goal.

What is the anticipated time commitment?

The Giffords Courage Fellowship is a four-month program that includes two 3-day in-person trainings, webinars, and a project in your community in between trainings. The take-home project may entail a substantial amount of time for planning and organizing. Fellows may have to miss school in order to lobby federal legislators on Capitol Hill.

What is the take-home project?

The purpose of the take-home project is for the Fellows to utilize the skills they learn from the first training by taking action in their local communities. The ideal project will be substantive, engaging, and locally focused. Fellows will brainstorm project ideas, subject to approval by the Giffords staff, throughout the first training. Past projects have included:

- › Voter registration drives
- › Press conferences
- › Town hall with local elected officials
- › Art installations

While Giffords staff will be available to advise and guide the Fellows throughout the project's development, it will be the responsibility of the Fellow to ensure the successful completion of their project. Upon completion of their respective projects, the Fellows will present the results to one another and Giffords staff.

What kind of funding is provided?

Giffords will cover 100% of costs related to program participation. This includes supplies, hotel, flight, food, etc.

Please contact couragefellows@giffords.org with any questions or concerns.



Being a Courage Fellow was one of the most impactful experiences of my life. I learned a lot about organizing, got to meet some incredible people, and developed a much deeper passion for gun violence prevention work.”

**ELIZABETH LANCASTER,
COURAGE FELLOWSHIP
ALUMNUS**