



COURAGE FELLOWSHIP



Across the country, young people have been standing up and demanding a safer future for their communities—demanding a future free from gun violence. Since 2018, Giffords has supported these brave activists through our Courage Fellowship program, which provides a select group of young people the opportunity to refine their skills and work together to reduce gun violence. **Giffords is proud to announce that the application for the 2024 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**, from hearing firsthand from policy experts to lobbying on Capitol Hill. The program will consist of two fly-ins, the first in Austin, Texas, in March 2024 and the second in Washington DC in June 2024. In between the fly-ins, participants will work on a community engagement project of their choosing with the support of Giffords staff and resources.

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 eager to learn new skills and open to different points of view
- › Applicants do not need to be extensively involved in the gun violence prevention movement already—we are looking to build a diverse class of Fellows with varying backgrounds and experiences, and the only requirement is that you are passionate about fighting gun violence and willing to work with others towards this shared goal

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline to apply for the 2024 class of Courage Fellows is December 11, 2023, at 12 pm ET.

[Our application is now live at this link.](#) If you have technical difficulties or questions, please email couragefellows@giffords.org. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.



COURAGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM COMPONENTS

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:

3-day training in Austin, Texas

FLY IN 1: March 1–3, 2024

3-day training in Washington DC

FLY IN 2: June 10–12, 2024

- > Regular check-ins and mentorship opportunities with Giffords staff
- > A lobbying day on Capitol Hill
- > The creation and implementation of a community engagement project with support from Giffords

What is the community engagement project?

The purpose of the take-home project is for the Fellows to put the skills they learn in the first training to use 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 halls with local elected officials
- > Art installations



CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Will be 18–22 years old on March 1, 2024.
2. Willing to travel to Austin, Texas, and Washington DC for the above listed trainings (all program-related costs, including food, travel, and hotel costs, will be covered by Giffords).
3. Able to attend the entirety of both trainings.
4. Willing to be a spokesperson for Giffords if asked.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

1. Biographical and contact information:
 - Full name, birth date, hometown, current town of residence, current year in school, school you are 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 one-page resume detailing their work and/or volunteer experience. If you do not already have one, a sample resume can be found [here](#).

