

2022 NPILF SUMMER FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION FORM

The Nebraska Public Interest Law Fund (NPILF) Summer Fellowships provide a limited number of stipends to matriculated University of Nebraska College of Law students who secure summer positions that serve the public interest. To be considered for a fellowship, applicants must meet certain individual and host-organization criteria described herein. Please read all application and eligibility materials carefully. NPILF strongly encourages all interested students to apply.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Completed applications are due on **Monday, March 14, 2022 by 11:59 p.m.**

Applications must be submitted electronically via ROSCOE.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for consideration, applicants:

- a. Must be matriculated students at the University of Nebraska College of Law, not graduating until December 2022 or later, and be in good academic standing at the time of the application; and
- b. Must have secured an offer from the host organization for which they seek a fellowship by the application deadline.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants must upload and then submit all of the requested application components to the NPILF posting in ROSCOE. Each component must be properly identified and include all necessary information. The components are as follows:

- b. Resume: Applicants must submit a current version of their professional legal resume;
- c. “Other” Documents:
 1. **Application**: Applicants must complete the one-page “Application Cover Sheet” (which is included below and can also be found in the Document Library on ROSCOE) and upload the sheet into ROSCOE.
 2. **Essay Questions**: Applicants must submit a document with typed responses to the following questions and upload it as an “Other Document” in ROSCOE:
 - *Personal Statement (limit of 1200 words)*: What is your commitment to public interest work? What public service projects have you been involved with either prior to or during your time at the law college? Why did you choose this summer opportunity? How will this experience fulfill your personal and/or professional goals?
 - *Position Description (limit of 500 words)*: Explain how your host-organization serves an unmet legal need. Also, briefly describe your summer public interest position, including the responsibilities you will be expected to

assume (to the extent known). Please include the organization's web address so the selection committee can review the organization's profile.

3. **Confirmation Letter from the Host-Organization:** This letter should be written on organization letterhead indicating that a firm offer has been made and specifying the length of the position (full-time, part-time, number of weeks, etc.) and whether the position is paid or unpaid. It must include the dates you will be working at the organization. It's important that we are able to deduce from the confirmation letter whether you will be working at least 300 hours (which is required for a "full" award), or if fewer than that, how many.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The Selection Committee will award fellowships based on a combination of the following criteria:

- a. The extent to which the proposed host organization, and the applicant's summer service within it, serves the interests of an *unmet legal need*;
- b. The applicant's demonstrated *commitment to public service* and public interest law and/or pro bono service that extends beyond this summer opportunity. Future interest in public interest law, one's career path, commitment to the summer position, involvement in public interest activities during and prior to law school, and prior or future commitment to fundraising for NPILF will be considered;
- c. The *quality of the proposed position* and host-organization as determined by the position description, and the profile of the organization. It will be considered whether the position will offer a structured experience and provide an opportunity to do substantive legal work;
- d. The *quality of legal supervision* as determined by the position description, the profile of the organization, and other application materials. Whether the supervisor acts in a legal capacity, and the degree of accountability that the student will have to that supervisor will be considered; and
- e. The *capabilities of the applicant* as demonstrated by the application essay, resume and the written recommendation.

NPILF FAQs

Q1: Does NPILF fund government positions?

A: Positions with government agencies are eligible for fellowship funding, *but* are subject to higher scrutiny when being reviewed by the selection committee to ensure the position serves an "unmet legal need." Applicants should clearly address what unmet legal need will be satisfied as a result of their position with the host organization in their position description.

Q2: Do I have to participate in direct client services? Can I receive funding if I'm working outside of Nebraska?

A: No preference will be given to client-based positions over policy-based positions, nor to Nebraska-based organizations over out-of-state or international organizations.

Q3: Will there be an interview as part of the application process?

A: Selection committee members may reach out to applicants via email or phone during the application review process if they have any questions about the applicant's materials. Applicants should be prepared to respond in a timely fashion to any such inquiries in order to facilitate the scoring process.

NPILF Frequently Asked Questions, cont.

Q4: What happens if I leave Nebraska Law after my Summer Fellowship?

A: Applicants should be aware that if awarded a fellowship, they may be asked to return all, or a portion, of their funding if they transfer or withdraw from the University of Nebraska College of Law prior to January 2022.

Q5: Can I do earn externship credit while I am working?

A: Currently, applicants cannot earn externship credits for the same position for which they are awarded an NPILF fellowship.

Q6: Can I receive funding for a position as a prosecutor (whether local, state, or federal) or for time spent interning with a judge?

A: The fellowship committee has never found a traditional prosecution position or an internship with a judge to be positions that serve “an unmet legal need.”

Q: How do I get involved in fundraising for NPILF?

A: Two student organizations, Women’s Law Caucus (WLC) and Equal Justice Society (EJS), regularly raise funds for NPILF. You may find contact information for these organizations on the law college website and reach out to the student leaders to learn about ways to get involved. If you are a member of another student organization and have an idea for a fundraiser, please do not hesitate to approach the administration to see how we can support your endeavors!

PLEASE NOTE: All questions regarding the NPILF application process should be directed to Kala Mueller in the CDO.

2022 Nebraska Public Interest Law Fund Application Cover Sheet

Host Organization: _____

Host Organization Address: _____

Attorney-supervisor's name: _____

1. Will you be receiving any funding or compensation for your position at the host organization? If yes, please provide details about each funding/compensation source (i.e., amount of compensation anticipated, duration of compensation, source of compensation, etc.). Note: A fellowship recipient who receives outside funding or compensation for his/her position that, when added to the amount of the NPILF fellowship, totals more than \$6,000 (or the proper pro-rated amount based on a partial fellowship award) will be asked to return excess funds.

2. If you do not expect to spend at least 300 hours with the host organization, please address how many hours you expect to spend with the host-organization and why it will be less than 300 hours. Note: A partial fellowship may be awarded to an applicant spending less than 300 hours with a host-organization.

3. Please indicate if you are eligible for Federal Work Study (FWS): **YES** **NO** **UNSURE**

Most law students qualify. To receive FWS, you must complete your FAFSA and request FWS summer funding when it becomes available, typically in early March. Using FWS will allow NPILF recipients to stretch their award and earn more than they would otherwise. FWS eligibility is *not* among the criteria considered when making awards. Rather, FWS is used to maximize funding.

For additional information on applying for FWS, review the document "Applying for Federal Work Study as a Law Student" in the ROSCOE Document Library (keyword search "federal").

4. If you will be working for an employer outside of Nebraska, please indicate: (1) whether the position will be remote or in-person, and (2) if in-person, whether you expect to incur any additional living expenses as a result.

Certification and Authorization

I certify that:

- I am in good academic standing with the University of Nebraska College of Law.
- I will complete an end-of-summer report for my internship.
- I will participate in NPILF fundraising and other activities supporting NPILF during the academic year following my internship.
- I authorize the release of my application materials to NPILF and the members of its fellowship selection committee.

By entering my name below, I understand I am creating an electronic signature.

Name: _____

Date: _____