



Stoneleigh Fellowship: Request for Letters of Interest

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About the Stoneleigh Foundation

The Stoneleigh Foundation was founded by John and Chara Haas to improve the life outcomes of Greater Philadelphia's most vulnerable children and youth. The Foundation meets this mission by awarding Fellowships to leading practitioners, researchers, and policymakers working to advance reforms in the systems that serve these young people – such as juvenile justice, child welfare, education, and health. Over the past ten years, our Fellows have developed new approaches to program design and delivery, changed how systems work together to better meet the needs of youth, and generated new knowledge through action-oriented research. To learn more, visit our [website](#), sign up for our [newsletter](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

The Stoneleigh Fellowship

The [Stoneleigh Fellowship](#) provides a unique opportunity for accomplished professionals to pursue discrete, multi-year projects that improve outcomes for vulnerable youth. Projects use one or more of the following levers to catalyze change in the systems that serve these young people:

1. *Research*: Generating new knowledge that can inform better decision-making.
2. *Policy*: Changing how systems work together to better meet the needs of young people.
3. *Practice*: Developing new approaches to program design and delivery, and expanding promising programs.

The award covers Fellows' salary and fringe benefits, travel, and a portion of expenses related to advancing project work. While the amount of the award depends on the personal circumstances of each Fellow and project, salary and direct project expenses may not exceed \$150,000 annually. Fellowships are generally awarded for two to three years.

In addition to financial support, Stoneleigh works closely with Fellows to amplify the impact of their projects and provides exclusive opportunities for networking and professional development. Fellows also become lifelong members of Stoneleigh's alumni network – a committed group of social justice leaders working to improve youth-serving systems.

Stoneleigh currently prioritizes Fellows whose work directly impacts policy and practice in Greater Philadelphia. Given the deep connection between state policies and outcomes for children and youth in our region, the Foundation is also committed to projects focused on effecting change at the state level in Pennsylvania.

Ideal Candidate

Fellows come from diverse professional backgrounds, such as medicine, law, social work, psychology, public policy, and program administration. While there is no specific experience requirement, candidates should have established track records in their fields of focus and strong professional relationships. Fellows should also possess:

- Experience successfully designing and executing projects of substantial size and complexity within prescribed timelines;
- A deep understanding of federal, state, and local policy, as well as current research and practice trends;
- The ability to bring together stakeholders from different perspectives to solve complex problems; and
- The ability to devote a substantial portion of their professional activities to the project.

Host Organization

Candidates must identify a host organization that will serve as a fiscal agent for Fellowship funds. Depending on the design of the project, the host organization may also provide Fellows with office space/equipment, administrative support, or assistance with fundraising and communications. Typically, host organizations are nonprofits, academic institutions, or government entities.

Opportunity

Currently, Stoneleigh is seeking Letters of Interest that focus on one or more of the following areas (not in order of priority):

- Developing Cross-System Approaches to Better Serve Youth: Strategies for facilitating coordination among youth-serving agencies to more holistically address young people's needs. For example, projects may foster collaboration between homeless services and child welfare, health and juvenile justice, or behavioral health and education.
- Addressing Factors that Can Lead to Child Welfare or Juvenile Justice Involvement: These can include challenges related to housing, substance abuse, and mental or physical health. In the juvenile justice system specifically, these can also include court costs and fees; exclusionary school discipline practices; and civil or municipal policies addressing status offenses.
- Incorporating Emerging Research into Practice: Considering new approaches to service delivery based on new evidence about adolescent brain science, trauma, and the importance of cultural competency.
- Applying an Intersectional Approach to Improving Youth Outcomes: Examining the relationship of race, class, gender, and sexual orientation to school push-out, homelessness, and/or out-of-home placement; and designing tailored solutions to minimize future systems involvement.
- Reducing Youth Violence: Addressing the needs of youth – particularly older youth – affected by violence in their communities through: targeted prevention strategies (focused on reducing the likelihood that youth with multiple risk factors become victims or perpetrators) or intervention strategies (focused on reducing violent behavior among those already engaging in violence, or mitigating its effects on victims).

Please note that these examples are not meant to be exhaustive but rather to give applicants a better understanding of the areas that align with Stoneleigh's priorities. A full list of past investments and additional funding interests can be found on our [website](#).

Submitting a Letter of Interest

The submission of a Letter of Interest (LOI) is the first stage in the application process to become a Stoneleigh Fellow. Before drafting your LOI, please visit our [website](#) for more information about the Fellowship, including specific funding restrictions.

Guidelines: LOIs should be limited to two pages, single-spaced, with 1-inch margins and a standard sans serif 12-point font (e.g., Calibri, Arial, Helvetica). The LOI should provide:

- A brief description of the specific issue you seek to address.
- A description of the design, scope, and overall goals and deliverables of the project. Specifically, please explain:
 - How the project addresses the problem statement, and how it will add value to the field.
 - How this approach differs from and/or complements other related work in Greater Philadelphia or nationally.
 - What existing relationships you have with the systems targeted by the project. (Which key organizations, institutions, and individuals will you need as partners on your project, and have they have agreed to work with you? Who is already committed? Who needs to be brought in?)

Once you have completed your LOI, visit [our website](#) to provide the following information via a brief online form:

- Name, current professional affiliation/title (if applicable), and contact information;
- One-sentence project description;
- Host organization name;
- Estimated annual Fellowship cost;
- Preferred Fellowship start date; and
- How you heard about this opportunity.

After completing the form, you will be prompted to upload your resume or CV and your completed LOI in pdf format. The submission deadline is **5 pm on Friday, March 3, 2017**.

Next Steps:

- Applicants will be notified whether they have been approved to move into the interview phase by **Friday, March 24, 2017**.
- Interview finalists will be asked to submit full proposals that include more detailed project descriptions (including timelines and associated deliverables), project budgets, and relevant letters of support.
- Staff will recommend selected projects to Stoneleigh's Board of Directors for approval at quarterly meetings that take place in early March, June, September, and December.
- Fellowship start dates are flexible and will be determined jointly by the Fellow and the Foundation.

Questions? Email info@stoneleighfoundation.org.