



The Drs. Elmer + Joanne Martin Social Impact Fellowship FAQs

Q. What exactly is the Drs. Elmer + Joanne Martin Social Impact Fellowship (SIF)?

A. SIF is a program in partnership with the Center for Social Impact Strategy (CSIS) at University of Pennsylvania (Penn) to provide social entrepreneurs with the tools and confidence to effectively drive social change in Baltimore.

Q. How long is the program?

A. The program runs for six months from October 2025 through March 2026.

Q. What is involved?

A. Each week you will watch online lectures to prepare you for assignments that will be graded by faculty members at Penn. Subjects include social impact strategy, business models for social enterprise, and digital media in social movements. Each week on Fridays, you will meet for an hour with CSIS faculty and other cohort members to further integrate your learning. Some weeks will include booster content (virtual or in-person) to deepen your analysis of Black social impact. You will also develop a capstone project and present your project to an audience of potential supporters. Finally, you will be asked to share your skills or experience with other cohort members who can benefit from what you have learned as a social entrepreneur.

Q. How many people will be selected for this program?

A. We will select 12 social entrepreneurs for this program.

Q. What are you looking for in the social entrepreneurs who are selected?

A. We are looking for people who have developed an initiative, organization, or project (for profit, nonprofit, or other entity) that is designed to implement solutions to systemic social issues or challenges with plans to be sustainable through revenue generation beyond grants and gifts.

Q. What do you mean by revenue generation?

A. We mean selling a product or service related to your social impact goals that will provide the resources to continue delivering social impact without complete reliance on grants from foundations.

Q. How will you choose the 12 social entrepreneurs?

A. A selection committee of CLLCTIVLY staff, consultants, and CSIS faculty will review applications and select entrepreneurs who we believe will most benefit from the program.

Q. Why are you providing a stipend?



A. We are providing a stipend of \$2,000 per month from October to March to support your ability to participate fully in the program. You will receive a 10-99 that you will file with the IRS at tax time. You will be responsible for paying taxes on this income.

Q. What if I can't participate on one of the [key dates](#)?

A. We ask that you apply next year when your schedule may allow you to fully participate.

Q. When do I need to apply?

A. The priority deadline is Friday, August 15th by 11:59 p.m.

Q. When will I be notified about my acceptance?

A. We will notify everyone who applies by Friday, September 5th.