



Immigrant Justice Corps Community Fellow FAQs

What is Immigrant Justice Corps?

Immigrant Justice Corps (“IJC”) is a two-year fellowship program for law graduates and college graduates with a passion for justice for immigrants. Our goal is to increase both the quality and quantity of legal services available for immigrants. IJC trains fellows and places them with host organizations in New York City, Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley, and New Jersey.

What is the model for Community Fellow placement?

Some of our Community Fellows are “in-placed” which means that they work four days a week at a community based organization and one day a week at IJC headquarters where they receive supervision from IJC attorneys. Other Community Fellows are “out-placed” which means they become employees of their host organizations and receive supervision directly from their hosts.

Fellows are placed with host organizations largely based on the fellow’s language abilities and the host organization’s need. To the extent feasible, we will solicit fellow input into their host organization before making final placement decisions.

What qualities make an IJC fellowship applicant a strong candidate?

IJC seeks Fellows who are smart, compassionate, and passionate about justice for immigrants. IJC also seeks Fellows dedicated to the idea of a Fellowship program – you give us two years of hard work and we will make sure you will be immersed in immigration law and helping others who likely would not have had an attorney or advocate otherwise. Almost all IJC Fellows speak a language in addition to English.

Does it matter what language other than English I speak?

We require Community Fellow applicants to speak a language in addition to English. The language that is in highest demand by host organizations is Spanish. We also have Fellows who speak Mandarin, Haitian Creole, French, Arabic, Korean, and Urdu.

How does the application process work for Community Fellows?

There is an online application for Community Fellows which will be open in February 2017. Applicants must submit a résumé, transcript, two letters of recommendation, write a Statement of Interest, and answer an essay question. Selected applicants will be interviewed and selected in the spring. *For additional questions about the application process, or to be notified when the application process opens, please email info@justicecorps.org*

What is the IJC Fellowship experience like?

Because our Fellows are placed at many different partnering host organizations every Fellow's experience is unique. Community Fellows work on a high volume of "light touch" cases. That means Community Fellows spend most days meeting with clients, conducting screenings and completing applications. The most common types of applications that Community Fellows work on are applications for naturalization, DACA, green card renewals, and Temporary Protected Status.

While the everyday work environment is different for each Fellow, all Fellows are a part of IJC's team and together are provided:

- Monthly training and professional development opportunities
- Access to an immense network of professional immigration legal service providers—both organizations and individuals;
- Career planning assistance including grad school/law school preparation;
- Partnership with a large community of peers;
- Invitations to IJC sponsored social and professional events;
- Upon completion of the program, membership to IJC's Alumni group;
- A team of committed lawyers and professionals who want to help you succeed.

Am I an employee of IJC or of the host organization?

Roughly half of IJC's Community Fellows are "out-placed" Fellows, and as such they are employees of their host organizations. The other half of Community Fellows work directly for IJC and receive benefits and supervision through IJC. Community Fellows earn \$38,000 each year.

Will I have an opportunity to work with IJC outside of my host organization?

Yes! IJC hosts monthly trainings for all Fellows, in addition to clinics, social gatherings, and professional events for Fellows.

A primary purpose of IJC is to expand access to counsel. Therefore, if there is an emerging critical legal need, we may mobilize Fellows to respond. For example, in the past we have sent fellows on two-week rotations to Texas to represent detained families.

Will Immigrant Justice Corps sponsor me for a green card or skilled worker visa?

No. All fellows must be eligible for work authorization in the U.S. for the full two years of the fellowship.

May DACA recipients apply?

Yes. DACA recipients are welcome to apply to Immigrant Justice Corps, and comprise a significant percentage of our fellowship classes.

May I submit more than two letters of recommendation?

No. Our online application system only allows for two letters of recommendation to be uploaded to the system. We strongly prefer receiving one letter from a professor and one from a current or former employer or internship supervisor.

If chosen, may I defer?

No. Fellows who are selected must be ready to start the program in September.

Do I need to submit an official transcript?

No. Please upload a pdf of a school-issued transcript.

Can my resume be more than one page?

Yes, though please limit yourself to two pages.

Do I have to finish my application before my recommenders can submit their letters?

No. Your recommenders can upload their letters as soon as you enter their information into the recommendation application step.

Will I be placed outside the City?

Maybe. Approximately one-third of the Corps is hosted in Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley, Connecticut and northern New Jersey, to meet the extraordinary demand for immigration law services in the counties that ring New York City. We anticipate continuing these placements. However, the majority of Community Fellows are placed within New York City.

What kinds of things do Community Fellows do after the Fellowship?

Many of our Community Fellows become fellows because they want to go to law school and gain practical experience before doing so. The fellowship is also an excellent way to decide whether a career in law is really your passion. In addition to law school, Community Fellows have gone on to attend other graduate school and to continue working as legal advocates in immigration and other areas of law.

What if I have additional questions?

You may contact IJC at info@justicecorps.org with any additional questions.