

## Rochester Urban Fellows: Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can international students serve as Urban Fellows?**

Unfortunately, due to funding constraints, international students are ineligible to serve as Urban Fellows in 2024. This year, Urban Fellows must be US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents.

### **Can I live off campus as an Urban Fellow?**

Most Urban Fellows choose to take advantage of the free on-campus housing provided by the program, and we do encourage Urban Fellows to live in community with each other during the summer. That said, you are welcome to live off-campus if you prefer. Do note that this decision will not affect the value of your living allowance stipend.

### **Do I get to choose where I'll be working for the summer?**

After a full cohort of Urban Fellows is selected, staff members will match Urban Fellows to community partner organizations based on several factors, including students' interests, experience, and career goals; the needs of each community organization; and the nature of the project.

### **What will my hours look like?**

Your work hours will depend on the host site you're matched with and the needs of that particular organization. Many Urban Fellows work a typical 9-5 schedule Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday, but some follow different schedules (for example, an Urban Fellow serving at the Public Market will likely be expected to work on Saturdays).

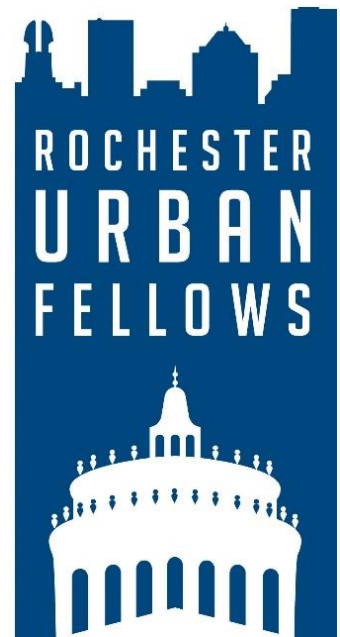
No Urban Fellow will work at their host site more than ~32 hours per week, but exact working hours are determined in conversation with host site supervisors. Wednesdays are spent participating in urban issue seminars as a cohort, which brings the weekly commitment closer to 35-40 hours. Wednesday sessions run from approximately 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. There are also some required evening events throughout the summer.

### **Can I work a second job/take a class/do research while serving as an Urban Fellow?**

Urban Fellows are expected to make their work at their host sites and all program activities their first priority. If you intend to work a second job/take a class/do research, you must clear it with your supervisor before beginning your term of service and your other commitment(s) must not interfere with your work at your host site or any other program-related activities.

### **What does a typical day look like?**

Every Urban Fellow's experience is different, so there really is no "typical day." Most Urban Fellows do some portion of their work in an office setting, and most also have ample opportunities to engage in hands-on work in the community.



**What does “modest living allowance” mean?**

Urban Fellows will receive a biweekly living allowance in the pre-tax amount of approximately \$833.33 throughout their term of service (approximately \$4,165 for the 10-week term). Because the living allowance is taxable, the net amount each member receives will depend on that individual’s withholding.

Upon successful completion of their service, Urban Fellows will also receive a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award of approximately \$1,459.26. The Education Award can be used to pay educational expenses or repay qualified student loans.

**Program expectations include...**

- Completing all assignments by provided deadlines (onboarding, pre-/post-surveys, closing ceremony bio, etc.)
- Serving ~32 hours per week with your host organization and abiding by any expectations of that agency (this includes timeliness, dress, etc.)
- Maintaining accurate records of service time in accordance with federal law
- Completing onboarding paperwork, fingerprinting, and background check processes before the start of the program
- Participating fully in all Urban Fellows sessions. This includes:
  - Attending and participating in orientation sessions
  - Completing weekly readings prior to each week’s seminar
  - Bringing weekly readings with you
  - Participating in reflection conversations, seminar dialogues, and activities
  - Completing weekly written reflections on time
- Participating in required weekend or evening events (Rochester City School District School Board meeting, Rochester City Council meeting, etc.)
- Engaging in community and cultural events throughout the summer
- Giving a 10-minute presentation about your summer experience
- Completing a final, comprehensive report
- Attending a closing ceremony