

IDEO.org Fellowship Program FAQs



What makes a person eligible for the IDEO.org Fellowship Program?

We're looking for candidates who have at least 5 years of professional full-time work experience, or a graduate degree plus 3 years of work experience. Proficiency in English is a must.

Individuals from the design, business, and social sectors who can help our teams deliver great work for our partner organizations are our ideal candidates. You should be passionate about social innovation, have experience working in the developing world or with low-income communities, work well in teams, be clear and articulate in describing your ideas, and love flexing your creative muscles.

We're striving for diversity in our Fellowship Classes. If you are from outside of the U.S., we'll help you with the visa application process if you are selected as a Fellow. Fellows will have access to health, dental, and travel insurance during their time in the Fellowship.

Are Fellows compensated during their time in the Fellowship Program?

Fellows will receive a \$60,000 living stipend.

Can Fellows bring their spouse, partner, and/or children?

Yes, families are welcome to accompany Fellows during the Fellowship. However, Fellows will be responsible for covering all travel costs, visa processing, and other living expenses.

Where will Fellows stay?

IDEO.org will provide a housing stipend for Fellows relocating for up to one month. Fellows will need to secure accommodations in the Bay Area for the remaining time in the program.

How much travel outside of the Bay Area will be required?

Fellows will travel both domestically and internationally depending on the needs of the project. Teams will likely be on location from 2-4 weeks at a time and 40% of the time of the Fellowship.

What happens after Fellows complete the program?

Our hope is that after the Fellowship Program, Fellows will take the knowledge and tools they have gained and apply it to future work in the social sector. We intend to build a network of individuals who have gone through the Fellowship Program who can use each other as resources in the future.

Where is IDEO.org's office?

We're located in IDEO's office at Pier 28 on the Embarcadero in San Francisco. We work within IDEO's walls, which means we have access to their talent, resources, and amazing views of the Bay!

How are projects chosen?

Our business development team works to secure a strong pipeline of projects for the duration of the Fellowship so that you can focus all of your energies on the projects themselves. We welcome Fellows to support IDEO.org business development efforts, for example, by using their networks to suggest potential partners and projects, but this is not a core element of the experience of the program.

Can I reapply to the Fellowship Program?

Absolutely! If you feel like you've really gained a lot of experience over the past year or you made it to the second round of the applications process last year, please consider reapplying for the Fellowship.
