

April 26, 2024

The Palestine Fellowship of the Educational and Cultural Exchange Mission

American Federation of Ramallah Palestine

The Palestine Fellowship is a new grant initiative of the AFRP Educational and Cultural Exchange Mission (AFECEM). The Fellowship invites educators, researchers, artists, media, medical, public health and legal professionals, among many other specializations from the AFRP community, to compete for a grant opportunity to gain experience and give back of their knowledge and skills to communities and Palestinian partner organizations.

The impact of the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem has led to global demonstrations against the relentless aggression. As of this writing, the genocide has left more than 34,000 Palestinians dead, two thirds of whom are children and women and the annihilation of whole communities, schools, hospitals, and infrastructure. Tens of thousands more Palestinians have been orphaned and maimed, and untold numbers of people are missing in the destruction. Most of Gaza's 2.3 million residents have lost their homes and are facing famine and starvation imposed upon them. Meanwhile, activists around the world are protesting the genocide and demanding a permanent end to war and occupation and freedom for Palestinians.

This Fellowship is an opportunity to potentially build upon unprecedented public awareness in the United States about the ongoing genocide and demands for Palestinian social justice. At the same time, it is meant to enable mutually beneficial knowledge and expertise exchanges that are self-sustaining after the Fellowship ends.

Successful applicants are expected to develop their own program for their Fellowship, with a time duration that should not exceed one year. Applications may be submitted by individuals or teams comprised of up to 5 members per year, including potential partners in Palestine.

For now, the Palestine Fellowship will be carried out from the United States with partner organizations in Palestine, when possible. Fellowship-funded travel to Palestine is not envisioned at this time.

The grant opportunity is largely planned and directed by the successful applicant(s) with a budget submission and work plan with clearly defined objectives. The following must be attached to the application, in either pdf or as Google Drive files with link provided, or applicant-suggested platforms. The format of the submission is left to the applicant but should clearly set forth the following:

- Project objectives, supported with evidence, research, or citations.
- Work plans, which clearly set forth goals toward project objectives.
- Partners in Palestine and/or the United States with letters acknowledging agreement of the parties to partner in this effort.
- Ultimate products or outcomes from the Fellowship.
- Plans for sustaining the gains made during the Fellowship.
- Budget and narrative, capped at \$5,000 per Fellow. Applicants are strongly encouraged to strengthen their proposals with additional funding from third-party sources and partners.
- A personal narrative of 850 to 1,000 words. This is a chance to tell us about yourself. Discuss your qualifications and dedication to Palestinian social justice. How will you individually, or as a team and partner organization, strive to successfully achieve your stated proposal objectives? Discuss the likelihood of obtaining continued support to ensure its viability and growth beyond the duration of the Fellowship. For example, how might the project improve awareness, offer a needed service, influence policy, or develop a community of individuals empowered with knowledge to help serve the Palestinian community?
- A curriculum vitae. When possible, applicants are strongly encouraged to include digital files of written work, art, media, video, or other professional work product in support of their application. If sending these files is not possible using Google Drive, applicants may provide a platform and url or access. Written application materials should be attached in either pdf or as Google Drive files with link provided.
- Finalists will be asked to provide names and contact information of three professional references.
- Successful Fellows must agree to submitting periodic reports and a final report on achievements. Fellows will also be expected to present on their experience at AFRP events, including but not limited to mid-year meetings and annual conventions, and to contribute to efforts to build the Palestine Fellowship network activities and selection process in future years.

Illustrative potential projects, used as examples and by no means exhaustive:

- Medical professionals with much needed expertise, propose an innovative telehealth service for Palestinians whose movement is restricted, but who have some internet access. The Fellow(s) could propose supporting an existing telehealth service.
- Artists, musicians, documentarians, authors, journalists, educators or researchers propose innovative ideas for exhibits, concerts, films, capacity building, written work or research projects. Proposals may seek to inform communities about Palestinian rights while contributing to capacity building of partners in Palestine or Arab American communities.
- A legal professional seeks to provide support to Palestinian prisoners through partner organizations and lawyers, while raising awareness in the United States of the thousands of Palestinians held indefinitely without charges under “administrative detention,” and by other unlawful means.

Application Criteria and Deadline

Applications are welcomed from members of the AFRP community, ages 18 and above. The deadline for 2024-2025 Fellowships is July 31, 2024.

Questions and applications should be directed to AFRP Program Director Dillon Odeh, at Dodeh@afrp.org . Please indicate Palestine Fellowship in the subject line. The Fellowship reserves the right to request additional information from applicants. AFRP/AFECM reserves the right to award or not award, or withdraw an award granted, in its sole discretion.