Care Villages Collective

2027 CARE VILLAGE FELLOWSHIP

Thanks for your interest in the first Care Village Fellowship! This guide explains the program, time needed, tips for applying, and rules about getting help.

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1. About the Fellowship

The Care Village Fellowship helps young people ages 18–30 learn how to work with community members and bring people together. Fellows will use these skills to plan their own version of the Calgary Care Village, creating a space where housed and unhoused Calgarians can meet, talk, and learn from each other.

Five to seven fellows will learn with community members, mentors, and each other as they plan and run the 2027 festival.

For context, the Calgary Care Village is a one-day community festival that began in 2022. It brings people facing homelessness and poverty together with health and social services. It also gives housed and unhoused Calgarians a chance to connect, share their stories, and build understanding.

You do not need any past volunteer or leadership experience to apply.

Honorarium: Fellows will receive $500 after they finish the Fellowship.

2. Program Phases & Time Commitment

Phase 1 | Community Engagement Foundations

January–March 2027 • Approximately 2–5 hours per week

- Build relationships with fellows and community members.
- Join workshops, community tours, learning trips, and meetings with mentors.
- Learn about homelessness, poverty, bringing people together, and leading as a team.
- Learn what you enjoy and think about ways you can help with the 2027 festival.

Phase 2 | Leadership Action Studio

March–early August 2027 • Approximately 5–10 hours per week

- Plan and organize the Calgary Care Village with community members, organizations, and volunteers.

- Choose tasks that fit your interests, skills, and what you hope to learn.
- Get support from mentors as you grow, work through challenges, and plan for your future. You can also share your festival ideas and get feedback.
- Use what you have learned to help run the festival.

In the month before the festival, you may spend up to 15 hours per week on the Fellowship.

Festival & Wrap-Up

The Calgary Care Village will happen on one weekday (Monday–Friday) in the first two weeks of August 2027. We have not set the exact day yet. The Fellowship will end with a chance to look back and celebrate in mid-August.

These hours include meetings, workshops, outreach, group planning, and work you do on your own. They are NOT all meeting hours. You can expect meetings every other Saturday (about one in person each month and the rest online), plus some weekend learning trips. Our first land-based learning weekend is January 8–10, 2027.

3. Tips for the Five Written Questions

The Selection Committee will score only your answers to the five written questions. We care more about your experiences, ideas, and what you learned than perfect writing or a long list of awards. You can use examples from any part of your life.

Question 1 | Genuine Interest & Commitment

Tell us why you want to work with people facing homelessness and poverty.

Share a time when you stayed committed to something that mattered to you. This could be with family, friends, work, school, or your community. You do not need volunteer experience.

Question 2 | Collaboration, Teamwork & Conflict Resolution

Tell us about a time you disagreed with someone. How did you listen to them, respond, and try to work things out?

Focus on what you did, rather than just saying you work well with others.

Question 3 | Community-Centred Leadership

Tell us how you would include guests of the 2027 Calgary Care Village in planning the festival.

Give clear examples of what you would do and when. How would you hear guests' ideas? How would their ideas help shape the festival? Do more than just say "plan together."

Question 4 | Resilience & Problem-Solving

Your challenge does not need to be big or unusual. It can come from any part of your life.

We care more about what you did, what you learned, and how you think about it now than how hard the challenge was.

Question 5 | Learning & Growth

Think about all the ways you could learn. You might learn about services for people facing homelessness, or grow in confidence, teamwork, communication, and other skills you can use later in life.

People from all backgrounds are welcome. You do not need to plan a career in social services or community work.

A few general tips

- Be yourself. Give clear examples when you can.
- Stories from home, friends, work, or school matter just as much as volunteer roles.
- Tell us what you did, what you learned, and what you would do next time.

- Do not worry about writing the “perfect” answer or using fancy words. We want to hear your own ideas and stories.

4. Application Assistance & AI

You can get help from friends, family, teachers, mentors, or someone you trust. You may also use AI tools like ChatGPT or Claude. We used ideas from mentors, community members, and AI tools when planning this Fellowship. We know that getting help can be useful.

But your answers must still share your own stories, ideas, and views.

Acceptable assistance

- Talking through a question to understand it or think of ideas.
- Putting your own ideas in a clear order.
- Checking spelling, grammar, and whether your answer is easy to read.
- Asking if your own ideas are easy to understand.

Not acceptable

- Having someone or an AI tool write the main parts of your answers for you.
- Using made-up stories, experiences, or awards.
- Having someone else come up with the main ideas for your answers.
- Giving false information about your experiences or interests to help you get picked.

Help with wording is fine. The stories and ideas must be yours.

Privacy reminder: Be careful when sharing private details with AI tools. Some tools may save what you type. Check their privacy rules before sharing personal information.

Declaring assistance

We will ask you to tell us what help you used. The Selection Committee will not see this answer, and it will not affect your score. You may get lots of help or none at all, as long as your ideas and stories are your own. If you had no help, write “None.”

5. Key Dates

Written application deadline	November 30, 2026, 11:59 PM MT
Fellowship interviews	Tentatively December 12, 2026
Fellowship starts: land-based learning	January 8–10, 2027 (Friday–Sunday)
Phase 1: Community Engagement Foundations	January–March 2027
Phase 2: Leadership Action Studio	March–early August 2027
One-day Calgary Care Village festival	A weekday during the first two weeks of August 2027
Fellowship wrap-up	Mid-August 2027

Interviews are planned for December 12, 2026, but the date may change. Everyone who applies will hear whether they have been chosen for the next step.

6. Questions?

Have questions about the Fellowship, who can apply, or the application? Email Bill Zheng at bill@radicalgary.ca. You can also email to set up a time to talk.

Application feedback: We may be able to share feedback after we choose people for interviews. This depends on how many people apply. We cannot give feedback before then.

Stay connected: You can sign up for our email news on our website to hear about future programs.

Applications close November 30, 2026, at 11:59 PM Mountain Time.

We look forward to learning about you and why you want to join the Care Village Fellowship.