

# Rochester Urban Fellows Program

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**Who?** Undergraduate students attending a Rochester-area college, and natives of the Rochester area who are attending college elsewhere, are encouraged to apply to the Urban Fellows Program.

Successful applicants will have a demonstrated interest in community or public service, urban issues, or other areas of civic engagement. Fellows receive stipends for their service with community-based organizations in Rochester.

**What?** The Urban Fellows Program emphasizes civic engagement, promotes learning about urban issues, and encourages a celebration and appreciation for cross-cultural issues and urban life. The components of the program include:

**Summer Fellowships** – Students are placed in a paid fellowship in agencies located in the city of Rochester. Fellowship placements are in a variety of fields, including health care, education, economic development, and youth services. While student interest will be considered, placements are based on the needs of community organizations. Prior projects include leading enrichment activities for youth; establishing a community garden and leveraging resources to combat community food deserts; and creating nutrition programming for adults in recovery.

**Urban Issues Seminars** – Each week, students attend daylong seminars led by faculty members and community leaders. The seminars are designed to teach Fellows about the history, politics, demographics, and sociology of urban systems in the area. Seminars are complemented by community-engaged learning activities that include neighborhood tours, community service, and conversations with community leaders.

**Community and Cultural Activities** – Students are invited and encouraged to participate in the cultural events and activities of the city, including neighborhood festivals, neighborhood association meetings, and other recreational and cultural events. Many of these gatherings include weekend and evening participation. Some events will be mandatory.

**End-of-Summer Symposium** – With support from staff and faculty, students develop a presentation based on their experiences and present their work at a closing symposium. All community and college participants are invited for this celebration.

**Where?** The Urban Fellows Program is hosted at the University of Rochester. Students may access housing on campus.

**When?** The 2026 program will tentatively run from Tuesday, May 26th, through Friday, July 31.

# *Rochester Urban Fellows Application*

***Application deadline: Friday, February 27th, 2026, 11:59 PM***

**\*\* Submit your application here \*\***

<https://airtable.com/appOk1jXjbX5GGFXG/shrWPwmPwJvvnhhmd>

## **Application Requirements:**

A one-page resume **in PDF format** highlighting your relevant experiences and skills. You will upload this PDF document directly to the application form.

A **single PDF document** including answers to the below questions. Please limit your responses to a total of two pages. You will upload this PDF document directly to the application form.

- Why are you interested in participating in the Urban Fellows program? What do you hope to get out of the experience?
- Define what “civic engagement” means to you.
- Describe a time you took initiative (to accomplish a large task, address a need, etc.). What did you learn from the experience?

Two letters of recommendation, submitted **by your recommenders**.

- Share this link with your recommenders:

<https://airtable.com/appOk1jXjbX5GGFXG/shr0ogOS3dLzXknj5>

- We recommend including one reference from a professor and one reference from a supervisor, coach, or other mentor who knows you well. **Do not include a reference from a peer.**
- Please be ready to include your recommenders’ names and contact information in the application form.

A copy of your academic record from each higher education institution that you have attended. You will upload your academic record(s) directly to the application form.

- Your academic records should detail the courses you've taken and grades received at each higher education institution you have attended. You may submit a screenshot from your institution's course management system or an unofficial transcript. The Urban Fellows program may request an official transcript when considering your candidacy.

*If you have any questions about the application requirements, the application form, or the Urban Fellows program in general, contact Ke'Juaine Sayres at [ksayres2@ur.rochester.edu](mailto:ksayres2@ur.rochester.edu) or at 585-276-6860.*