



## **Ayuda Seeks Fellowship Applicant(s) for 2022 Public Interest Fellowship Cycle**

Ayuda seeks applicants to apply for national public interest fellowships to join Ayuda's legal team in the fall of 2022. Applicants should be 2022 law graduates or individuals finishing judicial clerkships in the summer of 2022. Ayuda seeks applicants interested in projects consistent with Ayuda's mission to provide legal services to low-income immigrants in MD, DC, and VA in the areas of immigration law, family law for domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking/human trafficking survivors, and/or consumer law focused on preventing and responding to immigration legal services fraud and other forms of fraud targeting low-income immigrants.

**For this fellowship cycle, we are particularly interested in applicants who propose a fellowship consistent with their own interests and Ayuda's services,** which are described on our website at [www.ayuda.com](http://www.ayuda.com) and through our impact reports available at <https://indd.adobe.com/view/9d4a8c22-e6c7-4e16-a02b-e35fa9c8ebc5>.

We are also interested in the following ideas, should they be of interest to applicants:

1. **Expanding Project END:** The fellow will, if funded, expand Project END into Maryland and expand the types of civil remedies Ayuda pursues on behalf of fraud victims. Ayuda's Project END is a direct legal services project aimed at remedying the harm caused by immigration legal services fraud and other fraudulent schemes targeting low-income immigrants. Project END provides advice, counsel, and representation to victims in civil, criminal, and immigration proceedings. Unscrupulous actors routinely prey on immigrants who need immigration legal services and may not be aware that the person they are working with is not qualified to provide legal services or advice. The fraudulent work of these actors, who include lawyers, non-lawyers often known as "*notarios*," individuals claiming to be lawyers, bail bond companies, and other scammers, may lead to devastating consequences including financial ruin, ineligibility for immigration status, deportation, and permanent family separation. The fellow's work would include submitting complaints to local, state, and national law enforcement agencies to identify and take action against businesses or individuals who defraud immigrant consumers, obtaining restitution for our clients through demand letters or civil and criminal procedures, and representation of clients in their immigration matters. The fellow will also assist with outreach to immigrant communities in Maryland to warn of the dangers of immigration legal services fraud and to uncover fraud taking place. Project END welcomes applicants with a proposal for outreach to immigrant communities that speak a language other than Spanish.
2. **Pro Bono Clinic to Representation Pipeline:** The fellow will, if funded, work with Ayuda's pro bono program to expand Ayuda's reach among non-Spanish speaking immigrant communities with a particular focus on expanding the reach of Ayuda's pro bono immigration consultation clinics and taking on clients who come in through Ayuda's pro bono consultation clinics for in-house immigration representation by the fellow as well as holistic screenings and connection with other critical services, including but not limited to public benefits, Ayuda's social services program, and other civil legal aid providers.



## **ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE**

Ayuda is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing direct legal, social and language access services, education, and outreach to low-income immigrants in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Ayuda envisions a community where all immigrants succeed and thrive in the United States. Since 1973, Ayuda has helped low-income immigrants achieve safety and stability for themselves and their families by providing legal services in the areas of immigration law, domestic violence protection orders and family law, as well as social services and access to interpreters and translators. Ayuda has office locations in Washington, DC, Silver Spring, MD, and Falls Church, VA.

Ayuda believes:

- In seeing communities where all immigrants succeed and thrive in the United States.
- In the overall success of our organization and all our programs.
- That families should be healthy and safe from harm.
- That all people should have access to professional, honest, and ethical services, regardless of ability to pay or status in this country.
- That diversity and equality make this country better.

## **QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Anticipated graduation from an ABA-accredited law school by spring 2022;
- Anticipated bar exam by summer 2022 and admission by fall 2022;
- Opportunity limited to 2022 law graduates or those completing clerkships in summer 2022;
- Bilingual skills in a language relevant to Ayuda's client community required. Common languages spoken by Ayuda's legal clients include: Spanish, French, Amharic, Tagalog, indigenous languages spoken in Central America, Urdu, and Arabic.
- Experience providing legal services through a law school clinic and/or externship or internship experiences strongly preferred;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work independently and as part of a diverse, multidisciplinary team;
- Experience working in areas and with populations directly tied to the project proposed strongly preferred;
- Demonstrated commitment to social, racial and economic justice;
- Applicants with direct lived experiences similar to those of Ayuda's clients and/or the intended target population for the proposed project are strongly encouraged to apply.

## **TO APPLY:**

Please apply with resume, cover letter, and informal law school transcript (online printout is fine) sent via email to: [fellowship\\_committee@ayuda.com](mailto:fellowship_committee@ayuda.com). Your cover letter should include a description of the project you wish to propose, and it should include a strong statement of why you are the right person for that project.



Here are some pointers to guide you in your application:

- Do: Review the eligibility criteria and deadlines for any potential project-based fellowships. Review as much information about the fellowship application process, including watching application orientation webinars, such as the [Yale Law School's Public Interest Fellowships guide](#), or PSJD's [Fellowship Application Tips](#) and [webinar series](#).
- Do: Let Ayuda know in your letter which fellowships you'd like to be considered for. Although we typically apply for Skadden and Equal Justice Works fellowships, there may be other fellowships available to you! Check with your school's career office for suggestions.
- Do: Tell us about the project you would want to develop. Who is the target population? What services will you be providing to them? Why is there a particular need for this project now?
- Do: Tell us why you're passionate about your particular project idea. We want to know what drives you to pursue this work.
- Do: Tell us why you're the right person to carry out this fellowship project. What specific skills or knowledge do you have that you will be able to implement on day one? How will you develop the skills you'll need but don't yet have?
- Do: Describe how this fellowship project fits into your longer-term career goals.
- Don't: Simply recite your resume in your cover letter. Use your cover letter to provide specific examples from your prior experiences that demonstrate how you'll be able to make your project a success.
- Don't: Think that a project-based fellowship position is just like a staff attorney position. Instead, tell us your ideas and goals for the project, what makes you the best person for this project, and your ideas on making sure the project is one that can be carried forward beyond the two-year term of a fellowship.
- Don't: Be afraid to propose a project that we haven't identified. As long as the project idea fits within Ayuda's mission to provide legal services to low-income immigrants in MD, DC, and VA in the areas of immigration law, family law for domestic violence/sexual assault/stalking/human trafficking survivors, and/or consumer law focused on preventing and responding to immigration legal services fraud, we're interested in hearing your idea, understanding why it's an important project, and learning why you are the right candidate to implement that project at Ayuda.

Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Apply early for full consideration.

Ayuda is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, native language, protected veteran status, or any other protected ground and will not be discriminated against on the basis of disability.

We value a diverse workforce and inclusive culture. We encourage applications from members of underrepresented communities. This posting is not for a current vacancy at Ayuda and is intended only to select applicants for project-based, external funding. Sponsorship for a fellowship opportunity is not a promise of employment.