



2027 CARE VILLAGE FELLOWSHIP

Thank you for your interest in joining the inaugural Care Village Fellowship. This guide covers the program, expected commitment, application advice, and rules for receiving assistance.

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1. About the Fellowship

The Care Village Fellowship is a youth leadership program for young people aged 18–30 who want hands-on experience in community-building and working alongside people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Five to seven fellows will learn from community members, mentors, and one another while planning and delivering the 2027 Calgary Care Village, a one-day community festival.

The Calgary Care Village began in 2022 to connect people experiencing homelessness and poverty with health and social services, while bringing housed and unhoused Calgarians together to build relationships, dialogue, and understanding.

No previous volunteer, leadership, or community-building experience is required.

Honorarium: Fellows will receive a \$500 honorarium upon successful completion of 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.
- Take part in workshops, in-person tours, mentorship, and experiential learning.
- Explore homelessness, poverty, community-building, and collaborative leadership.
- Explore interests and possible roles in 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.
- Take on responsibilities based on interests, strengths, and learning goals.
- Receive mentorship for personal growth, life challenges, and future goals, as well as a chance to bounce around ideas and get feedback on the festival design.
- Put your learning into action through delivery of the festival.

During the final month before the festival, the commitment may increase to up to 15 hours per week.

Festival & Wrap-Up

The Calgary Care Village will take place on one weekday (Monday–Friday) during the first two weeks of August 2027. The exact date is still to be confirmed. Reflection and celebration activities will wrap up the Fellowship in mid-August.

The estimated hours cover everything: meetings, workshops, outreach, coordination, and independent planning—not just scheduled meetings. Fellows can generally expect biweekly Saturday meetings (about one in person each month, with other meetings online), plus weekend learning retreats. Retreat dates will be shared before final selection.

3. Tips for the Five Written Questions

Only the five written responses will be assessed by the Selection Committee. We care more about your experiences, ideas, and reflections than polished writing or an impressive résumé. Use examples from any area of your life.

Question 1 | Genuine Interest & Commitment

Explain what genuinely motivates your interest in working with people experiencing homelessness and poverty.

Share how you have maintained a meaningful commitment over time. This could involve family, friends, work, school, or community. Formal volunteer experience is not required.

Question 2 | Collaboration, Teamwork & Conflict Resolution

Describe a specific disagreement with someone whose perspective differed from yours. Explain how you listened, responded, and worked toward a resolution.

Focus on what you actually did, not simply whether you consider yourself a good team player.

Question 3 | Community-Centred Leadership

We are asking for your ideas about how you would engage guests of the 2027 Calgary Care Village in designing the festival.

Name specific practices you would use and provide tangible timelines for involving guests. Rather than simply saying “co-design,” explain what you would actually do, when you would do it, and how guests’ ideas would shape decisions.

Question 4 | Resilience & Problem-Solving

Your challenge or setback does not need to be significant or extraordinary. It can come from any part of your life.

We are less interested in how difficult the situation was than in how you responded, what you learned, and how you reflect on it.

Question 5 | Learning & Growth

Think holistically about learning. It may include practical knowledge of the homelessness-serving system, but also personal growth, stronger relationships, communication, teamwork, or skills you can use in any future path.

We welcome people from all backgrounds. There is no preference for applicants who intend to work in community-building or social services rather than another field.

A few general tips

- Be yourself and give concrete examples when possible.
- Experiences from your home, relationships, work, or school are just as welcome as formal community roles.
- Explain what you did, but most importantly, what you learned and how you reflect on the experience.
- Avoid spending too much time crafting a “perfect” response with elaborate vocabulary or polished language. We are interested in your own ideas, examples, and reflections.

4. Application Assistance & AI

You may receive help from friends, family, mentors, teachers, or anyone you trust. You may also use AI tools such as ChatGPT or Claude. The Fellowship itself was developed with input from mentors, community members, and AI tools, so we recognize the value of getting help.

Your responses must still reflect your own experiences, ideas, and perspectives.

Acceptable assistance

- Brainstorming how to approach a question or understanding what it asks.
- Organizing ideas you have already developed.
- Checking grammar, spelling, structure, and clarity.
- Getting feedback on whether your own ideas are communicated clearly.

Not acceptable

- Having a person or AI write the substantive responses for you.
- Using invented or AI-generated personal examples, experiences, or achievements.
- Asking someone else to create the main ideas or arguments of your answers.
- Misrepresenting your experiences or interests to improve your chances of selection.

Getting help with wording is fine. The examples and ideas themselves need to come from you.

Privacy reminder: Be careful about sharing personal or sensitive information with AI services. Depending on the tool and its settings, what you enter may be stored or used under that service’s policies, and you may have limited control over it afterward.

Declaring assistance

You will be asked to briefly describe any assistance you received. This declaration is not shared with the Selection Committee and is not scored. Receiving extensive help from people or AI will not affect your chances compared with receiving none, as long as your responses reflect your own experiences and ideas. If you received no assistance, write “None.”

5. Key Dates

Written application deadline	November 30, 2026, 11:59 PM MT
Interview invitations	Tentatively the second week of December 2026
Fellowship begins	Tentatively the second or third week of January 2027, with a weekend retreat
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

Interview timing is tentative and may change, including if the application deadline is extended. Every applicant will be told whether they are advancing to the next stage.

6. Questions?

Throughout the application period, you can ask for clarification about the Fellowship, eligibility, or application questions. Email Bill Zheng at info@carevillages.ca, or email to arrange a time to talk.

Application feedback: Feedback may be provided after the shortlisting stage, depending on the volume of applications received. Feedback is not available before shortlisting.

Stay connected: We also encourage all applicants to subscribe to our newsletter through our website for program news and updates.

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

We look forward to learning about you and what you hope to bring to the Care Village Fellowship.