

Request for Proposals for Fellowships in Positive Leadership (2026)

Fellowship Description

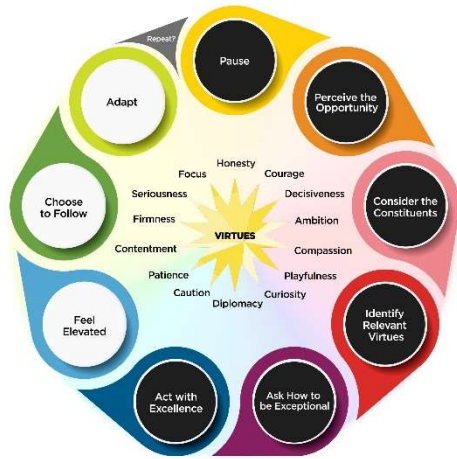
The University of Louisville's Center for Positive Leadership (CPL) is requesting proposals for people to receive grants and become Fellows of the CPL for the 2026 calendar year. The purpose of the grant is for Fellows to conduct research on topics related to positive leadership. Please see our definition of positive leadership below. Examples of potential uses for the money include, but are not limited to, the purchase of needed materials, paying for research subjects, paying for research assistants, or buying out a course so that there is more time to work on the project. It is expected that a two-page research report will be delivered to the Center at the end of the year describing the research completed for the fellowship, so that we may post this on our website. The report will be published on the CPL website. We also ask the researchers will inform the Center when their research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal. To see previous Fellows and their research, please [visit our website](#).

Who are We

CPL is the central hub for a global movement in increasing positive leadership. We educate, empower, encourage, enhance, enlighten, and enrich this global movement of positive leadership by:

- Supporting [research](#) on positive leadership,
- Providing leadership [tools](#), [assessments](#), and [events](#) to help people learn positive leadership,
- Gathering and supporting [professors, coaches, consultants, and leaders](#) who specialize in helping people learn positive leadership, and
- Delivering a full spectrum of [leadership development opportunities](#) tailored to the needs of, students, individuals, and organizations.

Positive Leadership Model



Definition

Positive leadership occurs—as the model to the left suggests—when one person pauses, invests the effort to perceive the situation as an opportunity to lead, consider the perspectives of the people who care about the situation, identify the virtues that are relevant to the situation, ask themselves how to exhibit those virtues in exceptional ways, and then exhibit those virtues with excellence. When people do this, other people often imitate, build upon, or go along with the actions of the first person because they feel elevated by the first person’s actions. Their following will seldom be rote but will also often adapt to the circumstances. People who

occupy leadership positions may engage in positive leadership, but positive leadership is not limited to people who occupy hierarchical positions of authority.

Who May Apply

This request for proposals is open to all applicants, worldwide. We request that applicants include with their proposal a description of their qualifications for conducting the research they propose.

How to Apply

Please submit a resume or curriculum vita and a written description of your proposed project to rpmart01@louisville.edu by November 1, 2025. The description should be no more than two pages. It should describe:

1. The research you propose, including what form you expect the final outcome to take, why it is important, and what methods you intend to use to complete the research;
2. When you expect to complete the research;
3. Why you believe this research will help advance the Project’s mission of increasing positive leadership in the world;
4. The likely outlet(s) for publication; and
5. Your qualifications for producing the output you are proposing.

Selection Criteria

Applicants may request grants for \$5,000 and acceptance of applications will depend on the degree to which the proposed research projects advance the Project's mission, a committee's judgment of the qualifications of the applicant(s) for achieving their proposed goals, and the quality and innovativeness of the research proposed. Please be specific. Vague claims will be viewed less positively than concrete ones.

Selection Process

A committee will review requests and award the fellowships by December 1, 2025. Fellowships will begin January 1, 2026, and will continue throughout the calendar year of 2026.

Questions may be directed to Ramie Martin-Galijatovic at rpmart01@louisville.edu or Ryan Quinn at ryan.quinn@louisville.edu. For further information about the Center, we direct you to our website: <https://positiveleadership.louisville.edu/>

Stipulations

It is the expectation of the Center for Positive Leadership that research conducted as part of this fellowship should acknowledge the support of the Center and will also be acknowledged on the Center website.