

2019 Restorative Narrative Fellowship FAQs

At ivoh we believe that media can inspire us to imagine and create a better world. We partner with journalists, photographers, gamers and filmmakers to teach and create stories that build empathy and compassion, connecting us across differences and orienting us toward hope. Now we are scaling up our work to engage communities, universities, newsrooms and other media in collaborative, place-based efforts to shift the public dialogue from fear and despair to promise and possibility.

What is Restorative Narrative?

ivoh created the Restorative Narrative genre, a strengths-based approach, to train media makers to tell the deeper stories of people and communities experiencing adversity—such as a school shooting or natural disaster, or systemic barriers, like poverty—and tapping into their strength and resilience to cope and grow. Restorative Narrative captures the realities of those working to reclaim or rebuild their lives, by highlighting strengths, potential, healing and growth, instead of only underscoring what is broken as conventional media often does.

For more information about Restorative Narrative Objectives + Elements, go [here](#).

Who Should Apply for the Fellowship?

ivoh is partnering with the Fetzer Institute to offer twelve Restorative Narrative Fellowships for media makers who live in one of four communities:

Atlantic City, NJ
Chicago, IL
Flint, MI
New Orleans, LA

There will be about three Fellows from each community, and the applicant must currently live there. Applicants must have at least 5 years of relevant media experience.

The fellowship is open to media practitioners of all kinds—photographers, journalists, artists, and other storytellers. Freelancers are very welcome to apply; ideally media practitioners will be affiliated with or employed by a media platform so that we can build capacity not just in the fellow but also the institution where they work. Fellows can choose to pursue one project or a series of smaller projects. They can work independently or in collaboration with other media practitioners, though we may not provide Fellowships to all collaborators.

All applicants are required to pitch a well-developed story idea that fits within the Restorative Narrative genre (please go [here](#) for more details on the Objectives + Elements of Restorative Narrative.)

How do I apply for the Fellowship?

Please complete [this application](#). The deadline for submission is January 2, 2019. The application provides more information about Fellow qualifications and requirements.

What is the 2019 Fellowship timeline?

- **January 2, 2019:** Application deadline (rolling until Jan. 2)
- **January 7-16:** Interviews for selected candidates
- **January 21:** Winning fellows notified
- **March 6-9:** Fellowship begins with training workshop at The Fetzer Institute Retreat Center, Kalamazoo MI
- **June 20-23:** [ivoh's annual media summit](#), Catskill Mountains, New York
- **August 31:** Fellowship ends

What are the benefits to Fellows?

The fellowship provides:

- **A stipend.** Fellows will receive a \$3,500 stipend that may be used as income or to pay project-related expenses. It is expected that Fellows use part of the \$3,500 stipend to travel to the Annual Summit, near Albany NY. All lodging/meals are included.
- **Paid expenses.** All travel to and lodging/meal costs at the March training will be covered by the Fetzer Institute.
- **High-level coaching.** Throughout the six months, fellows will receive storytelling coaching from one of four coaches. Coaches will work closely with each fellow to help them learn more about the Restorative Narrative genre and determine how to tell stories within this framework. Fellows and their respective media organizations will maintain editorial autonomy throughout the storytelling process, and final responsibility for the project's delivery.
- **Training workshop.** Fellows will meet one another, ivoh staff, and their story coach during a March training workshop. The training will offer time for rich dialogue and will give fellows a chance to learn more about the Restorative Narrative genre, receive feedback on their projects, and engage in 1:1 coaching sessions.
- **Sharing opportunity.** Fellows will discuss their projects and share lessons learned during ivoh's annual media summit, which attracts media practitioners from around the world.
- **Ongoing recognition and support from ivoh.** As a fellow, you'll become part of a growing cohort of Restorative Narrative Fellows. You will be connected to past fellows and the larger ivoh community, which is comprised of individuals who care about how media can help strengthen and empower people and communities.

What is required of Fellows?

Fellows are required to:

- Complete their Restorative Narrative project, ideally within the six-month Fellowship, barring any extenuating circumstances.
- Attend and actively participate in the training workshop and ivoh's annual media summit.
- Interact on a monthly basis (or more, if needed) with their coach to seek feedback and share progress updates.
- Take part in one group call each month with fellows, coach and ivoh staff.
- Sign a letter of agreement, and have their editor/supervisor sign it, acknowledging that the fellowship guidelines and requirements are clear.
- Freelancers must find a home for their projects, while those employed at media organizations are expected to publish it on their organization's platform. The latter should have the support of their editors.
- Allow ivoh and the Fetzer Institute to republish the work in its entirety.

Where can I find more information about Restorative Narrative and past Fellows?

Please visit [ivoh's website](#) to view Restorative Narrative [Objectives + Elements](#), our [Story Bank](#) and [Past Restorative Narrative Fellows'](#) projects.

What if I have additional questions?

Please email them to info@ivoh.org