



THE BOCHNOWSKI FAMILY

VETERAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

HOOVER INSTITUTION

FAQs

1. What is the Hoover Institution?

A: With its eminent scholars and world-renowned Library & Archives, the Hoover Institution is a public policy think tank that seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas that promote economic opportunity and prosperity while securing and safeguarding peace for America and all mankind.

2. What is the Veteran Fellowship Program?

A: The Veteran Fellowship Program (VFP) is a place for impact driven, entrepreneurial change makers with a bold vision and the tenacity to do the hard work needed for societal and policy change in their communities and beyond.

Launched in 2021 by Hoover Director Secretary Condoleezza Rice, the VFP is an annual, non-resident, capstone-focused program for ten post-9/11 veterans working to address pressing challenges facing the country. The program provides Veteran Fellows the time to consolidate their thinking, space to collaborate and expand stakeholder networks, and the momentum to take steps toward action. The VFP integrates the ‘ideas advancing freedom’ mission of the Hoover Institution with veterans who exemplify the credibility and talent of the military.

The program is building an effective and enduring network of successful veteran practitioners united by a commitment to public service who are undeterred in pursuing real solutions to intractable policy problems.

3. Who is eligible for the program?

A: The VFP is open to post-9/11 veterans who have served on active duty within the past 25 years from any of the following branches of the US military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy, National Guard, or Space Force. For those in the National Guard, their service must include at least one period of activation at either the state or federal level. Hoover is interested in applications from former enlisted members and officers; those separated or retired from service; those current or former reservists.

The VFP welcomes veterans who exemplify the following characteristics: persistence, flexibility, humility, collegiality, and personal inspiration for the goal they seek. The program is open to veterans who are successful mid-career practitioners with a desire to lead in their communities and a commitment to promoting ideas and actions for free societies. Candidates must come with impactful ideas and the drive to deliver results. Each veteran should possess the self-motivation, professional network, and vision to pursue their innovative project.

4. Are reservists eligible?

A: If the reservist previously served on active duty in the last 25 years, now holds a civilian job full time while serving part time in a reserve capacity (regular reserves or National Guard), and can provide the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), they are welcome to apply.

5. What are the costs associated with participating in the Hoover Veteran Fellowship Program?

A: For the in-person portions of the program, Hoover will pay for accommodations, most meals, and transportation costs in and around the Stanford location. We ask all participants to cover costs associated with travel to and from the in-person gatherings on the Stanford campus. Hoover will provide a **\$10,000 stipend to offset the costs of travel** for those who have been selected to participate in the program.

6. What is a Capstone?

A: The VFP provides time and a platform for Veteran Fellows to undertake a capstone to develop actionable solutions to challenges in the United States (at the local, state, or national level). Capstones should provide a real-world framework that reflects deep mastery of the problem and proposes informed approaches to policy improvement. They are intended to be **actionable and not academic research**. Topics are defined at the discretion of the Veteran Fellow, articulated in the application process, and refined at the first in-person gathering in November.

7. I want to pursue a capstone that focuses on veterans. Should I apply for this program?

A: Any veteran-related proposals should nest within broader policy needs. The program is not focused on veteran-only issues; rather, it provides a support network to elevate and articulate veterans' ideas and perspectives that address policy challenges in line with the support Hoover can give.

8. Who should write letters of recommendation on my behalf?

A: We require a minimum of **two letters of recommendation**, but not more than three. You should request a letter of recommendation from your **current supervisor**. If you are the founder or head of your respective institution, then it is suggested that you ask a board member or senior advisor to the organization to draft the letter on your behalf. If you are currently unemployed or between jobs, then it is suggested that you ask your previous supervisor.

Other letters should be from **professional or community associates or colleagues** who can speak to your experience and the impact of your work. We will not accept letters of recommendation from family or friends and ask that each recommender state their relationship to the candidate. **Letters from alumni of the program are not permitted.**

9. What are the deadlines for the application process?

A: **Applications are due on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 11:59pm PT.** Please view the latest program dates and deadlines at the Hoover.org website. Note that **letters of recommendation are also due by the application close deadline.**

10. Where do Veteran Fellows stay for in-person sessions?

A: Housing will be provided to participants during the five in-person engagements that take place at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, Washington DC, or Dallas, TX. We do not recommend that families accompany fellows to these engagements as it detracts from the bonding and network-building experience that is integral to the program.

11. What if I cannot attend all of the in-person engagements of the program?

A: It is required that all fellows attend the **five in-person engagements** of the program. No exceptions will be made.