



APPLICATION FOR THE HATFIELD PRIZE

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Public Justice's 2025 Hatfield Prize. Please email this application, including the other materials outlined below, to emily.crouch@cpjustice.org by midnight on Monday November 4, 2025.

This Year's Research Focus:

The Center for Public Justice (CPJ) seeks research proposals that examine a social policy that impacts the wellbeing of children, teens or families. Priority will be given to applications that propose innovative research on domestic social policy issues that include, but are not limited to: the social safety net, child care accessibility, juvenile justice, youth mental health, improvements to the foster care system, elder care, youth homelessness, housing policy, zoning policy, and food security.

Students will examine the issue at a federal level and will situate it within a local context by conducting original research in the community in which their campus is located. This can include a particular town or city in close geographic proximity to campus, or the county in which the campus is located. Research must examine government's role in addressing the policy issue as well as the distinct role and contributions of civil society institutions, including secular and faith-based organizations, businesses, houses of worship, and schools.

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____

First

Last

Phone: _____ Email: _____

College/University: _____

Major, Minor
if Applicable: _____





Current standing (sophomore, junior, senior)

GPA: _____

How did you learn about The Hatfield Prize?

Faculty Advisor and References

Please list the faculty member who will serve as your Faculty Advisor for the Hatfield Prize.

Full Name: _____

Email: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Please list an academic and/or character reference (not your Hatfield Prize faculty advisor).

Full Name: _____

Email: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Short Answers





Please keep all short answer responses to 500 words or less.

1. Describe your commitment to the Christian faith and how it impacts your political engagement.

2. How do you define justice? How does this definition of justice apply to what you believe the work of government and the work of other institutions outside of government (nonprofits, faith-based organizations, businesses, etc.) should be?



3. Why do you want to conduct research for the Center for Public Justice?

4. Please describe your research proposal, including the domestic social policy issue you plan to research. Include your primary research question and the government program(s) associated with this issue. Please be as specific as possible in your response.



5. Describe the community in which you will be conducting research. Why will your research make a timely and significant contribution to the wellbeing of your community?

6. To the extent possible, please outline how you plan to conduct your research (ex. semi-structured interviews, focus groups, surveys, etc.) Please be as specific as possible in naming people, organizations, or government agencies that you would intend to interview as part of your research process.

7. How do you see this research supporting work you wish to do in the future?





Other Required Materials

In addition to your application, please attach the following in your email to emily.crouch@cpjustice.org

- Your resume
- A writing sample (1500-2000 words, previous coursework is acceptable)
- Your faculty advisor's CV
- Your faculty advisor's written statement answering: "Why are you interested in participating in this research? How do you intend to support your student in his or her research?" (500 words or less)

Applications without these materials will not be considered.