



### **APPLICATION FOR THE HATFIELD PRIZE**

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Public Justice's 2026 Hatfield Prize. Please email this application with accompanying materials outlined below to [marykathryn.praamsma@cpjustice.org](mailto:marykathryn.praamsma@cpjustice.org) by Monday November 3, 2025.

#### **This Year's Research Focus:**

The wellbeing of children, teens, and families are at the core of a flourishing community. The Center for Public Justice seeks to expand innovative Christian scholarship on social policy challenges that impact communities across the United States. Use this form below to submit a research proposal in line with these stated goals.

Priority will be given to applications involving 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 situate it within a local context by conducting original research in a location in close proximity to their campus. This location can either be a town or city nearby 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: secular and faith-based organizations, businesses, houses of worship, and schools.

Please email this application with accompanying materials outlined below to [marykathryn.praamsma@cpjustice.org](mailto:marykathryn.praamsma@cpjustice.org) on Monday November 3, 2025.

### **Applicant Information**

Full Name:	<hr/>		Date:	<hr/>
	<i>First</i>	<i>Last</i>		
Phone:	<hr/>		Email:	<hr/>

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 [marykathryn.praamsma@cpjustice.org](mailto:marykathryn.praamsma@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 will you support your student in his or her research?" (500 words or less)

***Applications without these materials will not be considered.***