



## 2022-2023 Autry Fellowship Application Overview

This document is intended only as a guide. No PDF or Word submissions will be accepted. We recommend reading the essay and short answer questions below, preparing and editing your responses in a separate document, and copying into the [online application found here](#) once you are ready to submit. Please note that the online application does not save progress. We hope this overview document is a useful tool in your application process!

### Instructions and Guidelines

**TO THE APPLICANT:** Greetings and welcome! This information will assist the selection committee in choosing one person to serve as a Fellow for one year to work at MDC in Durham, North Carolina. Applicants must either be in their final year of undergraduate studies or have graduated within two years from any four-year college or university. **THIS APPLICATION CLOSES AT 11:59 PM EST ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2022.** MDC staff will notify all candidates of their status within four weeks, and choose the Fellow immediately following an interview day in mid-February. The Fellowship will begin in the summer of 2022, with the start date to be negotiated.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION:** The application consists of two sections: an essay portion that includes two prompts (up to 500 words each) and a short answer section with four prompts (250, 100, and 150 words, respectively). There is also a brief biographical section.

You cannot save progress within the online application. We recommend preparing and editing responses beforehand and pasting into the online application only once you are ready to submit. **IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT** Sofia Molina, 2021-2022 Autry Fellow, at [AutryFellowship@mdcinc.org](mailto:AutryFellowship@mdcinc.org) or 919-797-2903.

### Eligibility

**If you answer no to any of the following, you unfortunately do not qualify for the 2022-2023 Autry Fellowship and should not continue with this application. We appreciate your interest.**

1. Are you a student/graduate of a four-year, bachelor-granting college or university?
2. Did/will you graduate no earlier than May 2020 and no later than May 2022?
3. Can you commit to one full year as an Autry Fellow beginning between June and August 2022?

### Biographical & Contact Information

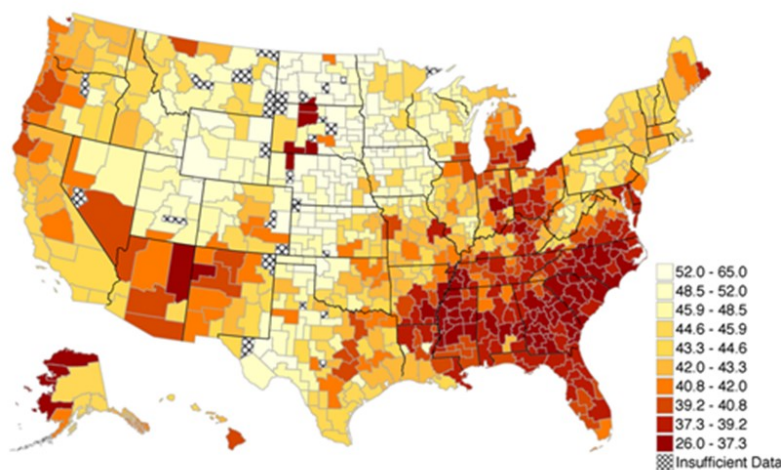
This section will collect your legal and preferred names, gender pronouns, mailing address, telephone number, email address, and high school information. You will also be able to list where you attended college, what you studied, the degrees you earned, and the year you graduated for up to three institutions.

## Essay Questions

Each essay is limited to 500 words. You are welcome to provide somewhat shorter responses that are thorough and meaningful. We recommend that you prepare your responses in a word processor and then paste your completed responses in the online form. As a reminder, you cannot save progress on the form.

### Essay 1

**The Geography of Upward Mobility in the United States**  
Mean Child Percentile Rank for Parents at 25<sup>th</sup> Percentile ( $Y_{25}$ )



Note: Lighter Color = More Absolute Upward Mobility

Chetty, et. al. (2015)

Upward mobility compares the economic outcomes of a cohort of children to that of their parents. In the South, poor children are more likely to grow up to be poor adults than elsewhere in the country.

This report found that areas with larger African American populations have significantly lower levels of upward mobility.

- Key Implication: place effects amplify racial inequality

**Considering the chart in the link above,** briefly describe what, in your opinion, influences the likelihood for adult children in the South to remain in the same economic outcomes as that of their parents? What factors hold these patterns in place? Discuss the implications for educational attainment, economic wellbeing, and/or health disparities in these communities. (500 word limit)

### Essay 2

MDC equips Southern leaders, institutions, and communities to improve economic mobility and advance equity. To do this MDC works in partnership with leaders and community institutions to change the conditions that perpetuate inequity. Tell us about an experience that shaped or affirmed your understanding of how to engage in social change. Briefly explain the experience, your course of action, and the implications of your actions. (500 word limit)

## Short Answer Questions

\*Pay Attention to Each Question's *Specific* Word Limit

1. Over the past 20 years, Autry Fellows have come from various regions across the country. Throughout their time with MDC, Fellows have established or reaffirmed a commitment to addressing issues across the South. Why is it important for you to work in the South? In your response consider your experience with a Southern identity OR your interest in place-based work. (250 word limit)
2. Through the Autry Fellowship, MDC aims to train future southern leaders. What knowledge, skills, or experiences do you hope to gain during your Autry year? How will your Autry experience move you forward in your professional journey beyond the fellowship? (100 word limit)
3. How would you define the term "equity"? How have you worked to promote equity in your previous work experiences/extracurricular activities? (250 word limit)
4. Please use this space to elaborate on anything else that you think we should know about you. This is an opportunity to share your unique attributes or experiences. (150 word limit)

## \*A Note Concerning References

References are used by MDC to ascertain an applicant's skill in various areas, such as leadership, analytical thought, etc. Applicants often feel that a supervisor or boss can adequately answer questions concerning these skills. References, however, are not limited to the applicant's superiors within a formal work setting. References may include peers, former teachers, mentors, etc. We encourage you to think critically about who can accurately, thoughtfully, and eloquently answer questions about your specific skill set.