

RUTGERS SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FUNDING

Rutgers Law School administers several summer public interest funding programs to support students in unpaid public interest and government internships.

The most sweeping of these is the [Maida Public Interest Fellowships Program](#), established in 2015 by alumnus James Maida, '90 and his wife Sharon, to support public interest-minded students. The Maida family funds law students each summer across both campuses with \$5000 stipends for rising 3Ls and \$4000 stipends for rising 2Ls. Several other generous donors fund additional stipends each summer, and the student public interest groups on both campuses raise funds as well. Stipend dollar amounts vary.

Maida Fellowships: Partners Program and General Program

Partners Program (Early Decision) –The Maida Partners program matches law students with designated partner organizations that have agreed to interview and hire Rutgers Law students on an expedited timeline, somewhat like “early decision.” *The matches are made by Rutgers and are binding.* The benefit of the Partners Program is that it is limited to premiere social justice organizations, usually where Rutgers students have excelled in the past. If you are matched with an internship, you are settled and funded in January. Any student on either campus is welcome to apply to up to three (3) of the organizations participating in the Partners Program. *By applying, you agree to the following: staying in the program until its conclusion, accepting all interviews that you are offered, and accepting and completing a summer internship with the organization with which you are matched, if any.* This commitment is relevant only to the (up to three) organizations to which you apply and rank. You might be matched with your first-choice organization, but you might not; by applying, you agree to accept the position even if matched with your second or third choice. The Program is competitive; not all applicants will be matched. Apply only if you are certain you would want to complete the internship with one of the Partner organizations and that the stipend will be sufficient.

General Program – Students who do not participate in or who did not match in the “Partners” round can apply for funding later in the spring. This funding is available for students who accept public interest jobs on their own or through established job fairs.

Other Funding Programs

Additional stipends are administered along with the Maida General Program, later in the spring. These include Neisser, Chen, Slocum, APIL (Camden) and PILF (Newark). Some funds are limited to MSP students, and others also have specific application criteria.

Community of Public Interest Students

The Summer Public Interest Funding Program is designed to build a community of public interest-minded students and to provide professional development opportunities and networks with the broader public interest legal community. Interns are required to comply with program obligations listed on page 3.

**Maida Public Interest Fellowship Partners (Early Decision) Program
Summer 2024 Timeline and Application Requirements**

Prior to December 1 – Resume and Cover Letter Drafting and Learning about Employers

- First, familiarize yourself with and follow the career planning sequence outlined by the Center for Career Development. This process includes developing a resume and cover letter template under the guidance of the Center for Career Development (CCD). The Center offers [a rich array of high quality resources](#) about resumes, cover letters, networking, interviewing, etc.; please use them.

1Ls and 2LE's: Follow the 1L Fall Semester Plan - Career Pathway, which provides step by step instructions to ensure you are taking the necessary actions to execute a successful summer job search. This career roadmap is accessible via Symplicity ([Newark student login](#); [Camden student login](#)). Most importantly, as with any application process, you should meet with a CCD career counselor for an initial appointment, review the [resume](#) and [cover letter](#) guides and [samples](#), attend a resume and cover letter workshop (or view the recordings: [resume](#); [cover letter](#)), and meet with a career counselor to review your resume and cover letter. Appointment and review requests are addressed by the CCD in the order they are received, so you must plan accordingly (allowing for at least 10 business days before the Maida application deadline).

2L's and 3LE's: For any application process, you should meet with your CCD career counselor to review your updated resume and cover letter and to discuss your overall job search strategy. Appointment and review requests are addressed by the CCD in the order they are received, so you must plan accordingly (allowing for at least 10 business days before the Maida application deadline).

- If you are planning to participate in the Maida Partners Program, then also make an appointment with Dean Friedman, Director Mertsoc-Wolfe, Priscila Abraham and/or Madeleine Kurtz, for a mandatory Maida resume/cover letter review. Students from both campuses are welcome to meet with any of the four:

To make an appointment:

- Dean Friedman: jill.friedman@rutgers.edu
 - Director Mertsoc-Wolfe: pmertsoc@camden.rutgers.edu
 - Priscila Abraham: pda39@law.rutgers.edu
 - Madeleine Kurtz: mlkurtz@law.rutgers.edu
- Review the [Maida Yearbooks](#) (summer reports about various employers, written by prior Maida summer fellows – note these reports include Partner organizations and others)
 - Review the [2024 Maida Partners registration forms](#)

Friday, December 1, 2023, 5:00 PM – Maida Partners Program Applications Due

- Upload your application materials (3 employers maximum) to Symplicity (Symplicity instructions attached)
- Cover letters should be addressed to the contact(s) listed on the each organization's registration form ([question #2](#)), [found here](#) (password protected), but all materials are to be uploaded to Symplicity. *Do not reach out directly to employers.*
- Only apply to organizations at which you are willing to commit to an internship. Applying to any site (up to 3) means that you commit to accepting the internship if matched.

Monday, January 8, 2024 and Tuesday, January 9, 2024 (prior to the start of classes) - Interviews

- Interviews via Zoom, or at employer's office, or at Rutgers (employer's choice)

After interviews, but prior to January 11, 2024 – Employer Ranking

- After interviews, you will have a better sense of your interest in the employers and can be thoughtful about your ranking – but remember that by applying to the Partners Program, you are committing to accepting an internship with any employer with whom you are matched.
- Students complete Google Form (to be provided) to rank the employers with whom you have interviewed, plus upload personal information

Approximately January 26, 2024 - Notification of Partners Internship Matches

- You will reply to an email from Dean Friedman confirming your understanding/acceptance of match. As a reminder, this is a formality, for by applying/participating you will have already agreed to the ultimate employer match.

Date/Time TBA - Summer Success Preparation Session

- Mandatory for those receiving Rutgers funding administered by the Pro Bono and Public Interest Program
- Zoom link: to be provided

2024 Maida Partners Public Interest Fellows Participation Requirements

- accept and participate in all interviews for which you are selected;
- accept and commit to working with the employer to which you are matched;
- participate in mandatory Summer Success Program, date TBA
- work full-time for ten weeks at the site for which you are selected;
- adhere to the highest ethical and professional standards in representing yourself, the Maida Public Interest Fellowships Program, and Rutgers Law School (and forfeit all/part of stipend if not);
- submit a 300-word description of funded summer experience by August 28, 2024 on a form to be provided;
- participate in informational and networking events relating to the Maida fellowship and public interest/professional development workshops throughout the 2024-2025 academic year

2024 Maida Partners Public Interest Fellowship Partner Organizations

- ACLU-NJ (Newark) - <https://www.aclu-nj.org/>
- AIDS Law Project (Philadelphia) - <https://www.aidslawpa.org/>
- American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) (Newark) <http://afsc.org>
- Community Health Law Project (CHLP) (NJ, multiple offices) - <http://www.chlp.org/>
- Community Legal Services, Inc. (Philadelphia) - <https://clsphila.org/>
- Disability Rights New Jersey, Inc. - <https://disabilityrightsnj.org/>
- Eastern Environmental Law Center - <http://www.easternenvironmental.org>
- Fair Share Housing Center (Cherry Hill) - <http://fairsharehousing.org/>
- Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) (Philadelphia) - <http://hiaspa.org/>
- Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) (Newark) - <https://supportkind.org/>
- Make the Road (Elizabeth) - <https://maketheroadny.org/>
- Partners (Montclair) – <http://partnersnj.org>
- Pennsylvania Innocence Project (Philadelphia) - <http://innocenceprojectpa.org/>
- Philadelphia VIP (Philadelphia) <https://phillyvip.org>
- Senior Law Center (Philadelphia) - <https://seniorlawcenter.org>
- South Jersey Legal Services, Inc. (NJ, multiple offices) <https://www.lsnj.org/sjls/>
- Volunteer Lawyers for Justice, (Newark) - <http://www.vljjnj.org>