

Students for Economic Justice (SEJ) Summer Internship 2026

Application Guide

The Students for Economic Justice (SEJ) summer Internship is a full-time, \$22/hr, 6-week program that empowers the next generation of social justice leaders through leadership and professional development opportunities. SEJ gives undergraduate college students organizing experience in a current San Diego campaign for economic justice. Interns receive trainings from key labor and community leaders throughout San Diego to build an intersectional approach to economic and social justice. During the program, SEJ Interns are placed at sites (i.e. labor unions, community organizations, or advocacy groups) to gain hands-on organizing experience.

Who is admitted into SEJ?

Ideal candidates for SEJ:

- Demonstrate passion and dedication to social and economic justice
- Demonstrate leadership at school, at work, at home, and/or in the community
- Demonstrate an interest in labor or community organizing as a potential career path
- Dedicated to advancing the San Diego region
- Has lived in San Diego and plans to stay in San Diego long-term

*We welcome participation from people of all genders, racial and ethnic backgrounds.

*The Center on Policy Initiatives is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and encourages women, people of color, persons with disabilities, and LGBTQ candidates to apply.

Admission Requirements

- College undergraduates at either a 2-year or 4-year institution in the San Diego area
- Available full-time (40 hours a week) from Monday, June 22nd, 2026, to Friday, July 31st, 2026
- At least 18 years of age
- Be fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- **Submit online application form (including short answers and essays) and resume by 11:59p.m. PST, Sunday, March 8th, 2026**
- **Have recommender submit letter of recommendation by the same deadline (March 1st, 2026) via this recommendation submission form:**
<https://form.jotform.com/253386480306156>

Application Process

1. **Complete online application.** Application can be found at <https://cpisandiego.org/sej/apply/sej-internship-application>. The application includes three sections: 1) General Information, 2) Short Answers, and 3) Essay Questions. We highly encourage you to write the essay prompts on a separate document so as to keep track of the word count, spell check, and have someone else revise it, before

copy/pasting into the online application form. *Tip: Please write the essay questions with ample time before the deadline, this will help you provide quality responses to the questions.*

2. **Request a letter of recommendation.** The letter can be requested from someone who knows you well to describe who you are and why you'd be a good fit for the SEJ program. Recommendations can come from former employers, teachers, mentors, or other supportive roles. The letter must include a signature and contact information, such as email or phone number. The letter needs to be submitted through this [recommendation submission](#) form by the deadline.

Tip: Be sure to give your recommender at least 2 weeks or more of advance notice to write you a letter. Please refer to this article on advice in asking for a letter: <https://stanford.io/33UfDAG>

3. **Prepare your resume.** The online form will require you to upload a PDF or Word document. Please describe your prior employment, education, internships, etc. Describe your roles, successes, hours worked, and duration. You can also include your involvement in student organizations, volunteer work, community work, etc. that speaks to your leadership development and/or skillsets. Two pages maximum.

Tip: We encourage you to visit your career services center for advice on fine tuning your resume.

After Submission

You will receive confirmation of your submitted application immediately after submission and a notification when your recommender submits their letter. You will be contacted regarding the status of your application less than a month after the deadline. Final decisions will be made at the end of April.

More Info

We want to make sure as many people as possible have an opportunity to apply to the SEJ program. So, if you have questions or need more time or help, please contact us at sej@cpisandiego.org and we will do our best to accommodate your request.

For more current updates please visit: <https://www.cpisandiego.org/sej>

About CPI

The Center on Policy Initiatives is a research and action institute dedicated to creating economic prosperity, sustainable communities and a healthy environment for all. CPI serves a unique role in the San Diego region providing the analysis, policy solutions, education and alliances that advance social and economic justice.