

2025 Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC) Grant FAQs

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Disclaimer

About the EPIC Grant

What is the EPIC Grant?

The EPIC Grant provides a source of funding for students who accept unpaid summer internships with organizations that advance public interest causes. Placements may include, for example, pro bono legal clinics, state and federal agencies, and judicial internships.

How is it determined who gets an EPIC Grant?

Because there are a limited number of EPIC Grants available to students each summer, applying for the EPIC Grant is a competitive process. Applicants are assessed holistically by members of the EPIC Advisory Board, which consists of public interest attorneys and legal practitioners, and by members of the Emory Law faculty and staff. The most competitive applicants are those who demonstrate a strong record of public service and who intend to pursue a career in public interest.

How much funding does an EPIC Grant provide?

The maximum amount of funding for the EPIC Grant is \$5,000 (\$6,000 for the Justice John Paul Stevens Fellowships). If you receive any funding from your summer internship placement or other funding sources, the total funding you are receiving from ALL sources (including the EPIC Grant) cannot be more than \$5,000. Any funding that an applicant receives from their summer internship placement or other sources must be deducted from the \$5,000 grant amount. For example, if your summer internship placement provides a \$500 stipend, you may only request up to \$4,500 in funding from the EPIC Grant.

What are the requirements to apply for an EPIC Grant?

In order to submit an application for a grant, applicants are required to do the following:

1. Secure a qualifying public interest summer internship of at least 10 weeks/400 hours
2. Attend a [Qualifying Public Interest Conference](#)
3. Attend [EPIC's Inspiration Awards](#)
4. Attend [an EPIC grant info session](#)

Meeting these requirements means you are eligible to apply for the grant. Should you not be able to attend the inspiration awards, you can still qualify by volunteering prior to the event or at another EPIC event. The next step is submitting an application for the grant, which includes certifying that you have met all the requirements. If all application requirements are determined to be met, the applicant will proceed to the interview stage.

Am I still eligible for the EPIC Grant if my placement is not 10 weeks long and 400 hours?

Unfortunately, no. To be eligible for an EPIC Grant, you must work at least 10 weeks and 400 hours during the summer. However, an applicant may work at up to two public interest placements during the summer to satisfy this requirement. In such cases, both placements must be listed within the application for consideration for the EPIC Grant.

Students whose internships will last at least 6 weeks, but less than 10 weeks, should consider applying for the [Emory Law Career Center Summer Stipend](#) rather than for an EPIC Grant.

Can I apply for an EPIC Grant if I am not a US citizen?

Absolutely. But please be advised that, per IRS rules, recipients of the EPIC Grant who are not U.S. citizens may face some tax withholdings. This may reduce the total amount of funds awarded to students.

A note from the Grant Team: If the student has a green card (lawful permanent resident) we are not required to withhold taxes. The same is true if they don't have a green card but are considered a resident alien for tax purposes. If a student is not sure, the tax department can take a look and see if they are already in our FNIS system or if not, we can have them complete FNIS.

Application Logistical Processes

What is the 2025 grant application deadline?

The deadline to apply for an EPIC Grant is **Monday, March 31, 2025 at 5:00 PM**. All requirements of the EPIC Grant process must be completed by this time. No extensions will be given absent extenuating circumstances.

Where can I find the grant application?

Find the 2025 grant application at this link: [Emory Public Interest Committee \(EPIC\)](#).

How do I submit the grant application?

The application is to be submitted digitally in PDF format and emailed to epicgrants@emory.edu with the file name “[Your Name], EPIC Grant Application 2025” [Example: Bob Student, EPIC Grant Application 2025].

What happens after I submit an EPIC Grant application?

Each applicant will receive an email confirmation that their application has been received. There is no guarantee that such verification will be immediate. If you have not received a response after 24 hours, please email epicgrants@emory.edu. After submitting your EPIC Grant application and confirmation that you have met the eligibility requirements, you will receive instructions for completing your virtual interview.

Can I still submit an application if I don't yet have an internship?

Students must have already accepted a public interest internship before applying for the EPIC Grant. As you will see from the application, many of the forms and documents pertain to your specific placement.

Because the grant process is competitive, we are not able to guarantee there will be funding left for students who accept placements closer to the summer. For this reason, we do our best to

make sure the application deadline is late enough that students should have had the opportunity to communicate with employers from the Public Sector Career Fair and otherwise. However, we also recognize that students have little control over hiring timelines. If you are in a position where you are still waiting to hear back from an employer/employers ahead of the deadline, please email the grant coordinator at epicgrants@emory.edu. Additionally, the Career Center's Summer Stipends may provide funding on a later timeline. [More information can be found here.](#)

Requirements to Submit an Application

Qualifying Public Interest Conference

What is a “Qualifying Public Interest Conference?”

Applicants must certify their attendance at the most recent EPIC Conference (“Voting Rights: Georgia”) held on September 28, 2024. If an applicant did not attend the EPIC Conference, they must certify their attendance at a Qualifying Public Interest Conference or confirm they watched a recording of the EPIC conference if previously discussed with the grant coordinator. The term “Qualifying Public Interest Conference” means any professional, academic or legal conference that is (i) related to issues in public interest and (ii) at least four hours in length. The term “Qualifying Public Interest Conference” does not include meet-and-greets or brunches/luncheons. If the applicant attends a Qualifying Public Interest Conference, they must include a brief description of the conference.

Does x conference count as a “Qualifying Public Interest Conference?”

Possibly. There will be a few conferences throughout the year that the EPIC Board will advertise as fulfilling the grant eligibility requirement. However, those are not the only conferences that count. Any conference that meets the previously stated Qualifying Public Interest Conference requirements counts. Please note that if you attended any conference that was not the EPIC Conference, you will be required to include a short description of that conference on your application. You can also use this space to explain why the conference counts as a Qualifying Public Interest Conference if you are concerned it is not immediately evident.

What if a conference is not 4 hours long but meets the other requirements?

A conference that would otherwise qualify, but is shorter than 4 hours may be supplemented by attendance to a second short conference.

If a conference is more than one day, must I attend the whole conference?

If a conference is more than one day, you only need to attend one day of the conference to qualify for the EPIC Grant Conference Requirement, as long as that one day is more than 4 hours long.

Inspiration Awards

What are the Inspiration Awards?

One of the law school's signature events, the Inspiration Awards celebrate members of our community who do extraordinary work in the public interest and provide funding for public interest summer grants. The event traditionally attracts over 300 people and raises enough funds to provide stipends for students who worked in otherwise unfunded public sector summer jobs. Applicants must certify their attendance at the EPIC Inspiration Awards held on February 4, 2025. All applicants are required to attend the EPIC Inspiration Awards.

What do I do if I miss the Inspiration Awards?

All applicants are strongly encouraged to attend the EPIC Inspiration Awards. If an applicant did not attend the EPIC Inspiration Awards, the applicant must (1) explain the reason for missing the event to the Grant Coordinator and receive confirmation that the absence is excused; and (2) volunteer for two hours to help with an EPIC event (coffee chats, Inspiration awards pre/post-preparation, trivia night, etc.)

EPIC Grant Info Session

What is the EPIC Grant Info Session? When will info sessions be held?

EPIC Grant Info Sessions will provide you with all the information you need about grant requirements and about how to submit a strong application. Info sessions will be held several times through the fall and winter. The first two info sessions are tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, September 18, 12:15 – 1:00 pm** and **Tuesday, November 12, 5:15 – 6:00 pm**. Check On the Docket and EPIC communications for more information about dates/times/places.

Site-Specific Grants & Other Funding Sources

Are there any EPIC Grants tied to specific internship placements?

For most EPIC Grants, students first secure their summer internship, and then apply separately for an EPIC Grant. However, each summer a few donors provide funding for an EPIC Grant to support a student at a specific summer internship. The internships funded this way can vary from year to year; in 2024, dedicated EPIC Grants were available to support internships at Atlanta Legal Aid's Home Defense Program; Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation; and Emory Law's Volunteer Clinic for Veterans.

These dedicated Fellowship opportunities will be posted in Symplicity and announced through On the Docket and EPIC communications in the late fall/early winter. Students apply to these

Fellowships as instructed in Symplicity (typically by submitting application materials to the Center for Public Service), and include a completed EPIC Grant application along with their resume, cover letter and any other requested materials. The students selected by the host organizations automatically receive an EPIC Grant as long as they have completed the baseline Grant requirements. Be sure to check On the Docket and Symplicity for information about these EPIC-funded summer placements.

Are there any outside summer grants I should be applying for?

Yes! In most years, our funding is not sufficient to provide EPIC grants to all students who apply, so it's important to look for other sources of funding. The more students who secure outside funding, the more Emory students who can be funded in total.

Here are a few outside grants to consider applying for:

- [Georgia Bar Young Lawyers Division Public Interest Internship Program \(PIIP\) Committee Grant](#) (for internships in Georgia)
- [Equal Justice America Fellowship](#) (internships with civil legal services non-profits in Georgia)
- [Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association scholarship](#) (open to all).
- If your internship will be in an area related to health law, consider applying for the **Alan Rumph Memorial Fellowship** sponsored by the Georgia Bar's Health Law Section.
- If your internship is related to environmental law, consider the **Turner Environmental Law Scholarship**.

Contact the [Center for Public Service](#) for more information about these opportunities.

There are many other funding opportunities available, many of them tied to specific types of work or specific geographic areas. [PSJD's summer funding primer and list of summer funding sources](#) are a great place to start in researching these options.

Can I receive multiple grants?

The EPIC Grant cannot be used in conjunction with other grants for summer internship placements if the grant is \$5,000 or more in value. If you receive funding less than \$5,000 from another source, you may apply for a reduced EPIC grant to bring your total funding up to \$5,000. If you accept an alternative grant (even after you've received an EPIC Grant), you **must** notify the EPIC Grant Coordinator immediately at epicgrants@emory.edu.

What about the Career Services Summer Stipend?

Beginning in 2024, Emory Law's Career Center has offered \$3,500 stipends to students taking unpaid, public interest or public sector summer internships of at least 6 weeks. The process for applying for these stipends is simpler and less competitive than the EPIC Grant process, and the stipends have allowed Emory to fund many more students overall. [You can learn more about the summer stipends, and view the application, here.](#)

As you consider summer funding, you should review the requirements for the EPIC Grant and for the summer stipend and decide which application you will complete. **If you apply for an EPIC Grant and are not selected to receive one, you will automatically be considered for a Career Center stipend;** there is no need to complete a separate Career Center application.

More Information

Where can I find the resources I saw at the EPIC Grant meeting?

First, you found the FAQ doc, so this doc is a huge resource! Please search for your question here and see if it can be answered before looking elsewhere.

Some other resources include:

- [EPIC Grant Application](#)
- EPIC Grant Email Address: epicgrants@emory.edu

My question wasn't answered above, what do I do?

Contact the EPIC Grant Coordinator at epicgrants@emory.edu.

Disclaimer

The EPIC Board reserves the right to make changes that provide further clarification regarding grant requirements. In the event of any substantive change, an explanatory email will be sent to the EPIC membership via Campus Labs and the document title will be changed to include the date the change was made.