

## Announcing Fellowship Opportunities for 2023-2024 For Early and Mid-Career Entrepreneurial / Intrapreneurial Clergy

**Atra: Center for Rabbinic Innovation** is transforming and elevating the quality, impact and reach of rabbinic leadership through pluralistic, cohort-based training and support for contemporary Jewish spiritual leaders as they serve in the field.

Atra offers applied post-graduate education and field supervision to working Jewish clergy<sup>1</sup>. This year, we are proud to announce the opportunities for our two flagship fellowships: the **Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs** and the **Fellowship for Rabbinic Innovation**.

Through these two fellowships, Atra has trained 59 Jewish clergy in the past 7 years. These clergy have gone on to lead or start new communities and projects across the country. Beginning in 2020, we invited Rabbinic Intrapreneurs to participate in the program as well. We further expanded our reach and impact to mid-career clergy when the inaugural cohort of the **Fellowship for Rabbinic Innovation** launched in 2021.

Applications are now open for the eighth cohort of the [Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs](#) and the third cohort of the [Fellowship for Rabbinic Innovation](#). To recommend someone for either of the two fellowships, [click here](#). The final application deadline is Thursday, May 4.

### The Fellowships

**Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs** is a one-year fellowship for rabbinical students and early-career rabbis and clergy of all denominations - candidates for this fellowship are in their last two years in seminary or first 5 years in the field. **The Fellowship for Rabbinic Innovation** is a one-year fellowship for mid-career clergy of all denominations who have at least eight years of field experience and plan to serve in the field for at least seven more years.

Fellows in both programs are launching or expanding new, independent initiatives or communities, or seeking to expand the reach of legacy institutions.<sup>2</sup> The ideal candidate will have big ideas, passion, fine-tuned “people skills,” risk tolerance, and a positive track record of executing successful programs or projects.

Through a yearlong practicum and didactic seminars with Atra’s faculty, staff, and invited experts, fellows learn the critical skills to design, develop, and scale new Jewish community projects.

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<sup>1</sup> We use the word “clergy” with the intention of including all educated Jewish spiritual leaders who are ordained, invested, or charged with the responsibility of what was once the role of the “rabbi” but now includes other educated spiritual leaders with titles like rabbi, cantor, maharat, rabbah, rosh kehillah, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Clergy can be serving institutions/synagogues but their projects must serve new populations in new ways, and not have an expectation that these people will become “members” of their current institutions.

Over the course of the year, Fellows will seek to build new forms of Jewish community, and to consider new business models and revenue streams for such projects. As a natural course, Fellows' community-building projects as originally conceived will likely change, transform, or deepen through the applied learning of the program. Fellows receive in-depth training in the principles, practices, and approaches necessary for entrepreneurial / intrapreneurial community-building. With mentoring, coaching, and peer support, fellows create, pitch, launch, and grow their ventures. **Fellows will receive a \$10,000 stipend, will be eligible to apply for modest seed funding, and will be given guidance as they seek revenue streams and pitch to external funders for their projects.**

### The Commitment

Fellows commit to attending two in-person seminars (October 2023 and June 2024), a virtual one-day seminar in January 2024, and monthly virtual workshops. These programs are mandatory. Further details and expected dates can be found [here](#).

Fellows additionally commit to participating fully and open-heartedly as part of a diverse pluralistic cohort of clergy. All will be encouraged to use both their minds and hearts — their intellect and personal experience — in our work together. Fellows are expected to dedicate significant time and energy towards completing guided projects that further their initiative. Fellows are expected to complete tasks and assignments in a timely manner.

**Fellows are eligible for a \$10,000 stipend.** All costs associated with participation are fully subsidized by Atra,<sup>3</sup> made possible through the generous support of our donors.

### Eligibility

- **Fellowship for Rabbinic Entrepreneurs**
  - Applicants must be in their last two years of seminary or first 5 years in the field
  - Current students interested in applying must be launching or expanding community-directed projects they are building with the goal of continuing to lead those projects after ordination
- **Fellowship for Rabbinic Innovation**
  - Applicants must be ordained or invested by a seminary or yeshiva, or have an advanced academic degree in rabbinics.
  - Applicants must have completed at least eight years of service since ordination/ graduation, and expect to serve for at least seven more years in the field.
- All applicants must have conceived of a project in its early stages, and/or have a clearly defined target audience. Clergy who are new to leading an already existing start-up community or project should email us at [shalom@atrarabbis.org](mailto:shalom@atrarabbis.org) before applying to confirm whether they are eligible candidates.
- Projects must work to form relationship-driven Jewish community or new forms of Jewish engagement with a population not currently served by local institutions or the parent institution employing the clergy member.

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<sup>3</sup> Travel stipends are capped based on our travel policies.

- Applicants with full-time positions must have the written support of a supervisor and key stakeholder(s), including commitment to the hours spent creating and developing the program, and must attend at least 1 meeting with Fellowship staff.

### How to Apply

Applications open for FRE Cohort 8 and FRI Cohort 3 on March 16, 2023.

**Priority Application deadline:** April 4, 2023

**Final Application deadline:** May 4, 2023

- Virtual Interviews: April 27 - May 19
- Offers Extended: Mid-June 2023
- Virtual Orientation: Late August 2023
- Program Launch: October 2023

**Step I: Online application:** The first step is to complete an online application form with a few short essays. The early-career FRE application can be accessed [here](#) and the mid-career FRI application can be accessed [here](#).

**Step II: Virtual Interview:** At the end of the application form is a link to a virtual interview with pre-recorded interview questions. You will be asked to prepare and record yourself answering these questions in the time allotted. You will not be able to complete this step until you have done the written application in Jotform.

**Steps I and II must be completed by May .** *Atra: Center for Rabbinic Innovation is committed to making reasonable accommodations for applicants with disabilities or extenuating needs.* If reasonable accommodation is needed to participate in this application or interview process, please contact Brittany Kahn ([brittany@ooi.us](mailto:brittany@ooi.us)) to discuss.

Select applicants will be invited to advance to a second round interview, which will be conducted via video call.

For more information on **Atra: Center for Rabbinic Innovation**, visit our [website](#).