

Bellagio Center Residency Program Application FAQ

Find answers to common questions here. If you need technical support, write to bellagioapplicant@rockfound.org.

Please note that in many places, these FAQs are a restatement of the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#). If there is a conflict between these FAQs and the Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions, the Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions govern.

ELIGIBILITY & CHARITABLE PURPOSE

Who is best suited for this opportunity?

This opportunity is intended for leaders with a proven track record of accomplishment and influence in their field, and for whom a Bellagio Center Residency will accelerate progress on an important project.

Strong applicants will be forward-looking with a history of advancing breakthrough ideas or actions. They should be curious, collegial, and collaborative—open to giving and receiving feedback from fellow residents.

We recommend reviewing the [application questions](#) before you begin the application process to familiarize yourself with the questions and better understand what is required of applicants.

For additional information, see the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#) and the [evaluation rubric](#).

What are the eligibility requirements?

Eligibility criteria are set forth in Section 2.A of the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#). They include that officials of the United States government [as defined by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service](#), individuals who have had a residency at the Bellagio Center within the last five years, individuals who have had two prior residencies at the Bellagio Center, and related parties of The Rockefeller Foundation are not eligible to apply.

Individuals who have applied in the past but were not selected for a residency may apply again. For more information on eligibility, please see the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#).

Officials of the United States government are not eligible for a residency. Former employees of the United States government may be eligible, subject to review by The Rockefeller Foundation's legal team. Non-U.S. citizens employed by a foreign government may be eligible, subject to review by The Rockefeller Foundation's legal team.

I applied or was a resident in the past. May I reapply?

Returning applicants are welcome to reapply. We strongly encourage you to submit an updated application.

Former residents must wait at least five years before reapplying. Individuals may not be awarded more than two Bellagio Center Residencies in their lifetime.

Is there a certain level of seniority or years of work experience required?

There is not a specific level of seniority or years of work experience required for the residency. However, given the importance of demonstrating significant professional accomplishment and influence in one's field, applicants with ten or more years in their field tend to be more competitive than applicants who are at an earlier stage in their career.

If I'm not ready to apply this year, can I apply in the future?

The Rockefeller Foundation releases an annual open call for residency applications. If you would like to be notified when the next open call for residency applications begins, [sign up here](#) and be sure to check the Foundation's [website](#) for updates.

How is charitability defined for the purposes of the Bellagio Center Residency Program?

All residency projects must satisfy the requirements for charitability set by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, which include such things as provision of relief to the poor, advancement of education or science, preservation of the natural environment, or promotion of social welfare.

Guidance around charitable purpose is provided in the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#). When presenting your project, please be sure to clearly articulate your project's charitable purpose, including who will benefit from the project and how that benefit will be accomplished through your work.

How is charitability assessed for artistic projects, such as books available for sale, films, exhibitions, and other artistic projects that may generate a profit?

Books and literary projects may be offered for sale, but the resident should be the author and retain the intellectual property rights to the manuscript as an author. Projects solely for the commercial benefit of a for-profit organization and owned by that organization are not eligible.

The writer or filmmaker can generally receive royalties for their work, provided that they retain ownership of the intellectual property they generate and that the material they produce is publicly released. If films or other media projects are planned for commercial distribution, we will ask the creators to explain how production and dissemination of the project would not be possible without support through the residency. The content must be educational, add value to public knowledge regarding the issues addressed in the work, and include considerations, ideas or other concepts that go beyond what is being currently published in mainstream media. The Foundation will also require detail on the filmmaker's plan for public dissemination, to ensure the piece is accessible to a target audience or the general public at low or no cost.

The creation of art can itself have a charitable purpose, and we welcome residents who are applying to improve or enhance their literary, artistic, musical, scientific, or teaching talents. You do not need to sell your work and donate to charity to satisfy the charitable criteria, but we expect you to share your art with a broad audience for their education.

How is charitability assessed for applicants working within a for-profit institution?

Projects cannot have a primary purpose of generating profit or benefiting a for-profit company. Any commercial benefit can only be incidental when compared to the charitable outcome resulting from the project. When presenting your project, please make sure that you are clearly articulating the direct and significant charitable benefit of the work you will be doing, including who will benefit from the project, and how that benefit will be accomplished through your work.

Projects that build upon existing programs from an applicant's place of employment are allowed. However, if the applicant works for a for-profit company, the project must be independent from the duties of the paid job function.

Are political activities or lobbying allowed during a residency?

No. Residents may not use their time at the Bellagio Center—or their residency project—for any political campaigning or lobbying activities.

Because the residency is funded by a U.S. charitable foundation, IRS rules strictly prohibit:

- Lobbying, including attempting to influence legislation at any level or encouraging others to contact legislators.
- Political campaign activity, including supporting or opposing any candidate for public office (U.S. or non-U.S.), directly or indirectly, such as through statements, publications, or advocacy.
- Voter registration drives or any activity intended to influence the outcome of an election.
- Propaganda or attempts to sway public opinion on specific legislation.
- Grantmaking to individuals or organizations for travel, study, or similar purposes.

During your residency, your work must remain aligned with charitable, educational, scientific, literary, or similar purposes. This means avoiding any activity that could reasonably be interpreted as political intervention or legislative advocacy.

Can I submit multiple proposals?

Each applicant can only submit one expression of interest (EOI) and – if invited – one application. Applicants will be invited based upon the proposal outlined in the EOI. Applicants must thus focus on the same project across both stages of the process.

Can I apply as part of a team?

The Bellagio Center Residency Program is predominately designed for individuals but accepts applications from teams of two people working on a collaborative project. Teams that bring people together from different geographies, institutions, or disciplines are especially welcome to apply.

When applying as a team, please note:

- Each team member is required to submit a unique application and will be evaluated separately;
- Each team member must submit their own application – we are not able to accept applications submitted on behalf of another person;
- The role of each team member should be clarified in each application;
- Team members should have comparable experience and backgrounds – each team member's credentials will factor into the evaluation;

- Applicants who are based in the same organization are not eligible to apply as a team.

PROJECTS & THEMES

What kind of projects are you looking for?

Applicants must have a specific project they want to advance during the residency.

Projects should be bold and compelling, with significant positive social impact and breakthrough potential. Projects can include scholarly research, applied practice, or a work of art. There should be a specific output or deliverable that is meaningfully advanced during the residency period and likely to be highly influential. Projects should be timely and well-suited to benefit from the unique cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary environment of the Bellagio Center Residency Program.

Note that projects that require access to specialized equipment, offsite excursions off the grounds, or access to research libraries are not a good fit for this program. Residents must bring any materials needed for their project with them to the Bellagio Center.

Please be sure to review the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#) and the [evaluation rubric](#) for more information on how projects will be evaluated.

What are the different project types?

Applicants must select one of the following project types that best describes their residency project:

- **Academics & Scholars:** University- and think-tank-based academics, researchers, professors, and scientists working in any discipline. These projects frequently advance a scholarly discipline or field of study and often lead to a published book or article.
- **Artists:** Artists and writers, including but not limited to composers, fiction and non-fiction writers, playwrights, poets, video/filmmakers, dancers, musicians, and visual artists who share in the Foundation's mission of promoting the well-being of humanity and produce work that inspires and transforms systems and practices. Art projects can be at the research, production, and/or post-production stage.
- **Practitioners:** Senior-level nonprofit leaders, journalists, private-sector leaders, and public advocates in a variety of fields and sectors. These projects can take many different forms, including books, articles, and strategies.

What are the 2026 Bellagio Center Residency themes?

The Bellagio Center Residency Program will include a mix of residents and projects, some directly aligned to themes of specific interest to The Rockefeller Foundation, and others that represent exciting new knowledge and/or that inspire critical examination of issues and discourse in any field.

The **themes** for the 2026 Bellagio Center Residency Program Open Call are: Universal Energy Abundance; Food Systems & Nutrition; Economic Mobility; Health; Artificial Intelligence for Good; Catalytic Finance; and Climate and Development.

As part of your application, you will be asked to select one theme that best aligns with your project. If your project relates to more than one theme, select the one that is the strongest fit. If your project does not favor one theme more than another, select General Open Call.

How do I write a “Because of Bellagio” statement?

The “Because of Bellagio” statement should be a concise, high-level statement, no more than one sentence, meant to efficiently communicate who you are and the fundamental goal of your residency project. The statement should follow this format: [YOUR FULL NAME], [KEY ROLES AND DISTINCTIONS], [SPECIFIC OUTPUT AND IMPACT].

To write your “Because of Bellagio” statement:

- Start with your identity, including:
 - Full name
 - Current role or title
 - One or two phrases that capture your credibility
- Describe the concrete action you will take
 - Use a clear, active verb such as create, develop, draft, distill, or produce
 - State the deliverable in specific terms: an action plan, framework, book outline, set of strategies, course, etc.
 - Explain the broader purpose or impact (forward looking and focused on contribution to a bigger ecosystem)
- What the work will enable:
 - Who it will support (the field, advocates, global communities, etc.)
 - The larger vision or systemic change this output will contribute to

Examples:

- Riley Marston, Founder of the Horizon Resource Collective, will create a field guide that helps communities strengthen local reuse and recovery networks.
- Lena Harwood, Senior Fellow at the Center for Applied Insight, will develop a framework that enables institutions to use predictive analytics responsibly and transparently.
- Tariq Ellison, Director of the Civic Futures Studio, will draft a blueprint for a workshop series that empowers residents to co-design solutions to community challenges.

APPLICATION & EVALUATION

What are the questions in the pre-application, EOI, and application?

The pre-application questions are:

- Are you over 18 years old?
 - Yes
 - No
- Are you a U.S. government official as defined by the [U.S. Internal Revenue Service](#), or will you be during the residency?
 - Yes
 - No
- Are you an official in public office in a country outside of the United States, or will you be during the residency?
 - Yes
 - No
- Do you confirm that you will not be a candidate in a public election during the residency and that your project does not aim to influence the outcome of an election on behalf of or in opposition to a candidate?
 - Yes
 - No
- Are you Rockefeller Foundation personnel or their related party?
 - Yes
 - No
- If you are a former Bellagio Center Resident, has it been at least five years since your residency?
 - Yes
 - No
- If you are a former Bellagio Center Resident, have you completed two Bellagio Center Residencies in the past?

- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Does your project have clear social benefit or charitable purpose?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Does your project require special equipment onsite, excursions off the grounds, or access to research libraries?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- How many years of experience do you have in your current field?
 - ☐ Under 10 years
 - ☐ Over 10 years
- Have you achieved significant professional success with formal recognition (such as awards or accolades) in your professional community?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Do you have a robust and influential professional network with well-established relationships essential to your project's success?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Do you have a clearly defined plan and output for your residency?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Can your project be significantly advanced during a focused work period in 2027?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- Are you prepared to engage in a cross-cultural, cross-disciplinary cohort and share your project with other residents?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

The EOI questions are:

Applicant:

- Prefix
 - ☐ Mr.
 - ☐ Mrs.
 - ☐ Ms.
 - ☐ Mx.
 - ☐ Dr.

- Judge
 - Prof.
 - Sir
 - N/A
- First name
- Last name
- Email address

EOI Details:

- Current title/position. If not applicable, enter "N/A"
- Name of the organization where you work. If not applicable, enter "N/A"
- The type of organization for which you work
 - Non-profit organization
 - For-profit organization
 - Other
- Your professional email
- Your personal email
- Social media handles / links
- Mobile phone number
- Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)
- Street address
- Address line 2
- City
- State/province
- Country of residence
- Zip/postal code

EOI Project:

- Are you applying as an individual or as a team?
 - Individual
 - Team of two
- Choose a title that easily identifies and distinguishes your project
- Identify the type of project you will pursue
 - Scholarly research
 - Applied practice
 - Artistic project
- Describe your professional background including primary area(s) of expertise and major accomplishments to date

- At what stage would your project be at the start of a 2027 residency?
 - Early stage (residency will support initial project phases, including strategic planning, research, interviews, data gathering, project launch, and completion of a first draft)
 - Mid-stage (project will be well underway and the residency will accelerate progress beyond the halfway mark; this might include refining existing components and/or addressing challenges)
 - End stage (project will be completed before or during the residency and encompass activities such as final editing, implementation, distribution and/or evaluation planning)
- Select which theme best aligns with your project. If your project does not favor one theme more than another, please select General Open Call
 - Artificial Intelligence for Good
 - Catalytic Finance
 - Climate and Development
 - Economic Mobility
 - Food Systems & Nutrition
 - General Open Call
 - Health
 - Universal Energy Abundance
- Select one category that best aligns with the topic or focus of your project
 - Architecture & Urban Design
 - Children's Rights & Well-being
 - Communications, Journalism & Media
 - Civic Engagement & Social Movements
 - Climate Change, Environment & Sustainability
 - Dance, Theatre & Performing Arts
 - Data, Technology & Artificial Intelligence
 - Democracy, Governance & Policy Innovation
 - Economy, Workforce Development & Social Innovation
 - Film, Video & Media Arts
 - Food & Agriculture
 - Health, Including Public Health, Infectious Diseases & Medicine
 - Human Rights, Justice & Advocacy
 - International Development & Sustainable Development Goals
 - Law, Policy & Governance
 - Mental Health, Resilience & Well-being
 - Music & Composition

- Natural & Physical Sciences
 - Peace, Diplomacy & Conflict Resolution
 - Philanthropy, Nonprofits & Social Impact
 - Poetry, Literature & Literary Arts
 - Social Sciences & Humanities
- How would you characterize the solution your project seeks to advance?
 - Connected to an established approach or solution
 - Takes an established solution in a new direction or adds new knowledge
 - Takes an entirely new approach or suggests a new way of thinking
- Because of Bellagio – Succinctly summarize the intended output and impact of your residency project into a brief statement in the following format: Your full name, role or distinction, specific output and impact of the project
- Provide an executive summary of your project addressing why it's important, and how it will address a specific issue/problem or create positive change in the world
- Select the option that best describes the specific outcome or deliverable you will accomplish by the end of your residency
 - Article for General Publication
 - Article for Peer-Reviewed Publication
 - Book or Chapter
 - Film, Script, or Play
 - Musical Composition
 - New Artwork
 - Strategy Document
 - Organization Plan
 - Project Plan
 - Poem(s)
 - White Paper
 - Other
- Select the region of the world that would be most directly impacted by your project
 - Asia
 - Africa
 - Europe
 - Latin America (Mexico, Central America, South America, Caribbean nations)
 - Middle East
 - North America (United States, Canada)
 - Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, Pacific Island nations)
 - Broadly Global North
 - Broadly Global South

- Broadly Global
- In what country were you born?
- How did you learn about the Bellagio Center Residency Program?
- I am a returning applicant
 - I am a former Bellagio resident
 - I am a former Bellagio convening organizer or participant
 - From The Rockefeller Foundation's website or social media
 - Another organization
 - A staff member of The Rockefeller Foundation
 - Big Bets Community
 - Other

The application questions are:

Project

- Breakthrough Potential – How will your project lead to a breakthrough (i.e., in a field, system, or discourse)?
- Next Steps – What will be your next steps to make progress towards this breakthrough after the residency?
- Impact – Within one year of the residency, what will be different because of your project? What public benefit will result from your project?
- Residency Focus – Describe how you will spend the duration of the residency. What will you accomplish during that time, and how will that contribute to the overall progress or fruition of your project?
- Pre-Residency Milestones – Are there project milestones that will be completed prior to the residency? If so, please outline these milestones, including how they will help position your residency for success.

Expertise & Influence

- Why You – Why are you uniquely suited to do this project?
- Audience – Who is the specific audience for this project and what you are trying to get them to do differently?
- Influence – Do you have an existing relationship with this audience and/or access to networks necessary for your project's success? If so, please describe in detail. If not, please describe how you intend to build those relationships.

Cohort Fit

- Project Fit – Describe how your project will be enriched by an interdisciplinary cohort of other residents from around the world.

- Cohort Experience – Curiosity, collegiality, and collaboration are vital to make the most of the interdisciplinary, cross-cultural nature of a Bellagio Residency. Please describe an experience with someone very different from you and how it influenced your work.

Video

- Please paste your video's full YouTube URL here.

Resume / CV

- Please upload a single PDF of your curriculum vitae or resume

After completing the pre-application questionnaire, how do I access the EOI?

Depending on your responses to the pre-application questionnaire, you may receive a results screen with an invitation to submit an EOI for the residency.

We recommend reviewing the EOI and application questions in the answer above before you take the pre-application questionnaire to fully understand what is required of those who are encouraged to submit an EOI, and of those who are invited to submit a full application.

If you do not receive an invitation to submit an EOI after taking the pre-application questionnaire, your responses indicated you are not a good fit for the program at this time.

After I submit an EOI, what is the next step regarding submitting a full application and what is the timeline?

After the March 20, 2026 EOI submission deadline, all EOIs will be reviewed, and a percentage will be shortlisted to invite to submit a full application. Those invited to the full application will receive notification by email in mid-May 2026 with instructions to complete the application. The deadline to submit completed applications and all supporting materials is 5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time on Wednesday, June 10, 2026.

How are EOIs and applications evaluated?

EOIs and applications are evaluated using four criteria: Impact, clarity, expertise, and influence.

Applications are assigned to members of our expert panel who are matched as closely as possible to the project's topic area. We strongly recommend reviewing the [evaluation rubric](#) before applying.

Following the expert panel's scoring and feedback, The Rockefeller Foundation selects a subset of applicants to move forward to the interview stage. Interviews are typically conducted via video call beginning in early August.

All applicants receive an update on their application status in the fall, and selected residents are notified before the end of the year.

Please review the [timeline](#) for more information.

Do you provide feedback to applicants?

Due to the high volume of applications received, we cannot provide feedback on any individual application.

What about treatment and use of intellectual property?

Please review Section 8 of the [Bellagio Center Residency Program Terms & Conditions](#) for information on intellectual property.

Each application should reflect the anticipated ownership, use, and licensing of any intellectual property rights. The use and licensing of intellectual property rights of the applicants who are selected for the Bellagio Center Residency Program will be subject to the terms of the residency agreement. By applying for the residency, you represent and warrant that all of your application content constitute original work created solely by you, that you own all intellectual property rights in and to all of the application content, and that no other party has any right, title, claim or interest in any of the application content, except as expressly identified by you to us in writing in your application.

How should we address milestones pre-residency and activities during residency, if we do not know when our residency will be?

We suggest you share a broad description of the key milestones along the way. You may describe how a Bellagio Center Residency will benefit your project at various stages in the project's cycle. For example, you might describe how your project is expected to unfold over the course of one year and what work you would undertake in a 26-day residency during each quarter of the year. As an illustration, if you are working on a book, you might work on writing the first few chapters if awarded a residency during the first quarter of the year, or you might work on revising those chapters if awarded a residency during the second quarter of the year, and so on.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS & OTHER

What are the video requirements? How do I upload my video to YouTube?

Each application must include a brief video of no more than 90 seconds that introduces you, your project, and why now is the ideal time for a Bellagio Center Residency. Your video should not be professionally produced – an informal video created on a smartphone is expected.

Your video must adhere to the following guidelines, or else it will render your application ineligible:

- No more than 90 seconds in length
- Must be in English
- Must be captioned. See instructions on how to caption YouTube videos [here](#).
- Should not include images of identifiable children
- Should not include copyrighted material (including, but not limited to, music) for which you do not have a license
- Your video's privacy settings should be set to "Unlisted" (not private). When setting as Unlisted, only those with the YouTube URL will be able to access and view the video, including the Bellagio Center Residency Program team and the expert panel.
- Check to make sure [embedding](#) is turned on

The video is an opportunity for you to introduce yourself and your project in a manner that is different from the written narrative. It will not be evaluated for production quality but will be considered alongside the written narrative when applying the [evaluation rubric](#). You'll note that no element of the rubric refers specifically to the video. Reviewers will be asked to consider your application in its entirety when applying the dimensions, so the video is just one component of your overall submission.

After the selection process concludes and you have been notified of your application status, we recommend deleting your video or changing the video setting to private in YouTube.

For those who need technical support, you can write to bellagioapplicant@rockfound.org.

What are the CV requirements?

Each application must include a CV or resume of no more than five pages that includes the following information as applicable:

- Degree(s), degree-granting institution(s), field(s), and date(s) of degree(s) awarded)
- Current position (location, dates of employment, professional title, and responsibilities)
- Previous positions (in chronological order, including locations, dates of employment, professional titles, and responsibilities)
- An abbreviated list of publications that demonstrates the applicant's expertise in the area of published work especially in the past five years (articles, books, chapters, reports, exhibitions) including full citations with the name of the publication, title of work, date of publication
- Relevant work: For academics this may include supervision of master's and PhD theses, conference presentations, grants, honors, or awards, and professional affiliations. For practitioners this may include service on boards, grants, honors, or awards, and professional affiliations. For artists this may include exhibitions, presentations, public performances, grants, honors, etc.
- Other relevant contributions that demonstrate professional achievement

Does the application and required materials need to be in English? Is it possible to work on a project not in English?

All applications and accompanying materials must be submitted in English. This provides consistency across all entries during our evaluation process and reduces the risk of misinterpretation or translation errors. If your CV or resume is fully translated into English, it is fine to leave organization names and other items that have no direct translation in the original language.

Please note that projects conducted in languages other than English are allowed; however, applicants must be able to speak about their project in English, which is the common language of the program.

If I am accepted to the Bellagio Center Residency program and my project changes from what I originally proposed in my application, is that okay?

We understand that projects may shift and evolve over time. If you are selected for a residency and your project outputs or other key project components have changed, you must inform the Bellagio program staff, and they will evaluate whether the changes are acceptable.

If you are accepted for the Bellagio Center Residency Program, you retain all right, title and interest in any inventions, software, works of authorship or other Intellectual Property

Rights you develop, invent, create, or acquire during your participation in the residency. The Rockefeller Foundation will ask for certain rights to promote you and your work in the residency agreement that you sign to accept the opportunity.

Where can I go if I still have questions?

For all questions, email bellagioapplicant@rockfound.org.

RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Where can I learn about the Bellagio Center Residency Program and past residents?

We invite you to visit [Bellagio Center Residency Program website](#) and our [Bellagio Center Residency Directory](#).

How are the residency dates determined?

All residencies are 26 days to ensure consistency across each cohort. Applicants who progress to the interview stage will be invited to indicate which dates are preferable for their potential residency. While we do our best to accommodate individual date preferences, the Bellagio Center has limited capacity each month and residency dates will be assigned based on Bellagio Center availability.

How many residents are in each cohort?

Each cohort includes a maximum of 14 residents.

Can we bring a spouse or partner to the residency?

Residents can bring a spouse or partner to join them for the first 5 days of the residency. We are not able to accommodate children, other family members, or friends. Note the program does not pay for spouse or partner travel.

What is included in the residency and is travel support available?

If awarded a residency, you will receive 26 days of room and board at the Bellagio Center in Lake Como, Italy. This includes meals, a private studio for working, access to laundry facilities, and ground transportation to/from the Center upon arrival and departure. Travel funding to and from your home country is also available. Residents can bring a spouse or partner to join them the first 5 days of the residency. Note the program does not pay for spouse or partner travel.

How is the residency and cohort experience structured?

The 26 days are structured by each resident to maximize work time on their project. Breakfasts and dinners are communal amongst the cohort; lunch is offered communally or via a packed lunch. Additionally, all residents are invited to present their work to the others in their group via an informal one-hour dialogue scheduled by Bellagio Center staff.

During the residency, offsite visits and travel is discouraged, except over weekend days, since the focus of the residency is to accelerate work on a project and to engage with the community of fellow residents at the Center.

What service level and accommodations are available at the Bellagio Center?

Applicants are encouraged to carefully review all information provided about the Bellagio Center and residency to understand the accommodations, services, and community expectations before submitting an application.

The Bellagio Center is a historic property set on a hillside overlooking Lake Como. While the setting is inspiring, the campus includes steep pathways, uneven surfaces, and multiple stairways, and not all buildings or outdoor areas are fully accessible. We welcome early communication regarding accessibility needs so we can mutually assess whether needs can be accommodated within the constraints of this historic site. The Center is located in a small town; while basic medical services are available locally, access to advanced or specialized care may require travel to facilities farther away.

Meals at Bellagio are prepared in an on-site kitchen with an emphasis on locally sourced ingredients and are served family-style at set times to foster connection among residents. Most dietary preferences and needs can be accommodated with advance notice; however, meals are communal, based on the chef's daily menu, and individualized or on-demand service is not available. Wine is provided as part of meals and Center-hosted gatherings, but guests may not purchase alcohol off-site and bring it onto campus. The Bellagio Center is not a hotel and does not offer concierge services. It operates more like a private residence, and accommodations and services reflect that spirit of shared community and simplicity. Residents should expect a structured daily rhythm and limited customization of services.

These policies and considerations, which apply equally to residents and their partners, are shared both early in the application process and also throughout residency onboarding to ensure transparency and aligned expectations.

What is the official language of the program?

English is the official language of the program. Many residents speak multiple languages but are encouraged to speak English as the common language to help facilitate community interaction and engagement.

Is there a residency contract or agreement?

All applicants who are accepted into the Bellagio Center Residency Program shall enter into a residency agreement directly with The Rockefeller Foundation, which will be sent at the time of offer.

What is the difference between the Bellagio Center's residency and convenings programs? What is the difference between the Bellagio Center Residency Program and the Big Bets Fellowship Program?

The Bellagio Center Residency Program supports individual leaders working on a specific project during a 26 day stay at the Bellagio Center, while also fostering connection and exchange within a small resident cohort. In contrast, Bellagio Convenings are short, five-day gatherings for groups of up to 22 participants, designed to advance a shared goal led by a convening organizer.

The Big Bets Fellowship is a separate leadership and professional development program that provides emerging leaders with mentorship, strategic guidance, and access to networks over time. While it may include travel or convenings, it does *not* include a 26-day onsite residency at the Bellagio Center.

What are The Rockefeller Foundation's funding priorities?

Please visit our website to learn more about the Foundation's [focus areas](#) and [grants program](#).