

Governor Phil Murphy

# Governor Murphy Announces New Clemency Fellowship Program to Support Historic Clemency Initiative

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**TRENTON** – Governor Phil Murphy earlier this year unveiled a [historic clemency initiative](https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562024/20240619a.shtml) (<https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562024/20240619a.shtml>), – established under [Executive Order No. 362](https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-362.pdf) (<https://nj.gov/infobank/eo/056murphy/pdf/EO-362.pdf>), – to expedite the review of pardon and commutation applications with the goal of providing relief from inequities and collateral consequences that are caused or perpetuated by the criminal legal system. Aiming to support this initiative, the Governor today announced the creation of a new Clemency Fellowship Program within his office to support the review of clemency applications.

“The Clemency Fellowship Program provides a great opportunity to put social justice policy into action while making a true impact on the lives of those affected by inequities in our legal system,” **said Governor Murphy**. “We have committed to this new, ambitious initiative because we believe in second chances. Bolstering our review process with a team of Fellows will help ensure we are on track to deliver on our commitment to review as many clemency applications as possible before the end of our Administration.”

“Clemency is a powerful tool that can change lives by restoring liberty and relieving the burdens of those who are hampered by the mistakes of their pasts,” **said Justin Dews, Chair of the Clemency Advisory Board**. “The Board and I are thrilled to see the team for this important initiative grow, and we look forward to the incoming Fellows joining our work already in progress to make the Governor’s restorative-justice goals a reality.”

The Clemency Fellows will receive training on the initiative and will assist with the review and processing of applications for clemency that have been received by the Governor’s Office. Their role will be to review applications for expedited consideration, draft memoranda on applications, and broadly support the Governor’s Office and Clemency Advisory Board with this initiative.

Fellows will have the opportunity to work with various state agencies critical to realizing the Clemency Initiative’s goals.

Those with a Juris Doctor or Master’s Degree in related subject matter are encouraged to apply. Eligibility will be based on several factors, such as established excellence in professional or academic environments and a demonstrated interest in criminal justice.

Applications for the fellowship will be accepted until October 11, 2024. Click [here](https://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobannouncements/DefaultJobAnnouncement/ViewNonCompetitiveJobDescription?guid=e1dd1768-adcc-4a39-953b-8421856a1126) (<https://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobannouncements/DefaultJobAnnouncement/ViewNonCompetitiveJobDescription?guid=e1dd1768-adcc-4a39-953b-8421856a1126>) for more information on how to apply.

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