

2026 FELLOWSHIP APPLICATION SAMPLE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Echoing Green Fellowship Application

DOCUMENT OVERVIEW

This document shares key questions from the Echoing Green Fellowship application and highlights responses from current Fellows that clearly, concisely, and directly answered each part of the question.

In the footnotes of each response, Echoing Green Staff provides you specific insights into what makes the responses especially strong and why these responses align with our [selection criteria](#). We encourage you to review our selection criteria as you craft your own responses to application questions.

While this document should serve as a resource demonstrating what successful responses have looked like in the past, please note that there are a number of different ways to showcase your unique leadership and ideas. We hope you can use these responses as a source of inspiration as you brainstorm ways to share your own innovation, vision, and leadership experience.

Question on Innovation

Q: Explain how your work introduces a new approach or improves on existing ones - either in your geographic area or in your field. What makes it innovative?



A: Freedom Community Clinic is innovative in its creation of what a healing system can look like if it prioritizes and centers Black, Brown, and immigrant healing beyond the confines of our current medical system.¹ The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that our disease-centered medical system cannot address the deep trauma and isolation especially felt by BIPOC communities.

Our unique whole-person healing framework emphasizes²: (1) healing is not just physical, but also a mental, emotional, and spiritual process (2) healing for Black, Brown, and immigrant

communities that have experienced violence in the medical system must be prioritized; and (3) healing especially for Black, Brown, and immigrant communities is founded in community.

Through our unique community-centered approach, we believe in the possibilities of re-defining medicine for Black, Brown, and immigrant people³ as not merely the absence of disease, but the presence to heal, feel, live, and love as one's authentic self.

Answer from 2022 Echoing Green Fellow [Bernadette Lim](#), Founder of Freedom Community Clinic

¹ Specifies how her innovation is challenging the current medical system

² Demonstrates how her idea represents a unique approach and gives specific examples of how she challenges existing assumptions

³ Describes how her work will create a better future and contribute to a movement-building coalition of organizations

Question on Systems Change

Q: Think about the systems that affect the issue you are addressing. What kinds of power are influencing the system? Describe how your work plans to or is already addressing the root causes of the issue to create a more equitable system.



A: No philanthropist, engineer, designer, pharma company can come into black communities and solve the systematic racism that exists in the South African healthcare system without radically shifting the lenses of black people to see themselves within the healthcare system as critical actors. Despite the success of increased access to antiretroviral treatment at almost every clinic in Southern Africa, chronic medication non-adherence continues to persist because the convenience of access remains elusive⁴.

Pelebox Smart Lockers has showed how a patient lead approach⁵ can move a clinic from 22% non-adherence to less than 3% non-adherence⁶. This result drastically shows the effects of localized solutioning can change the overall health outcomes. We aim to inspire Ministries of Health⁷ to adopt a patient led approach to building systems and policies.

Answer from 2022 Echoing Green Fellow [Neo Hutiri](#), Founder of Pelebox

⁴ Names not only the issue: chronic medication non-adherence, but also the root cause behind the issue is people lack convenient access to their medication.

⁵ Specifies how his innovation addresses the root cause of the issue he seeks to solve

⁶ Uses specific data to demonstrate the impact his innovation has had on solving the issue

⁷ Identifies the Ministry of Health as a key power in influencing the issue and patients as key in implementing the solution

Question on Proximity

Q: Describe how you shift power to the community and how you engage the community into the design and strategic decision making of your work.



A: My experiences as a full-time teacher in a low-income community⁸ have shaped my understanding of the children we serve. I have spent 3 years teaching a group of children and working in communities with parents and school management committees.

Additionally, I've facilitated over 80 art and poetry workshops, where I discovered the power of the arts as a medium to help every child find their voice. We prioritize listening to the needs of our children and educators⁹. An example of this was when the COVID-19 pandemic struck India, we reached out to our students, their parents, and teachers and learned how children wanted a place to express themselves and deal with the

emotions of upheaval the pandemic created. Within a month, we created byte-sized art-for-wellbeing lessons to be sent to students daily¹⁰. Within 4 weeks of the launch, 510 other non-profits, schools, and learning bodies signed up for the program. These resources reached over 4.7 million children during the pandemic.

Answer from 2023 Echoing Green Fellow, [Jigyasa Labroo](#), Founder of Slam Out Loud

⁸ Describes relationship to the community she serves and provides several examples of how she has gained proximity to this community

⁹ Demonstrates how she proactively involved the impacted community (i.e. students and parents), in the strategic design of her solution. She outlines a specific example of designing solutions with and for the community.

¹⁰ Outlines how her leadership shifts power back to students by co-designing the solution with them, and ensuring that solution is accessible to 4.7 million other children and other organizations.

