

2025
2026

Ethel Bolden Minority Fellowship

The Richland Library Friends and Foundation awards up to two Ethel Bolden Minority Fellowships annually to honor and recognize Ethel Bolden's years of service to the Richland County community and its libraries. The \$3,500 fellowships seek to encourage and provide financial support to students from underserved/underrepresented ethnic and racial groups who are working toward the completion of a Master of Library and Information Science degree at the University of South Carolina and interested in working for Richland Library.

Eligibility Requirements

Individuals are eligible to submit an application for the Ethel Bolden Minority Fellowship if they:

- are a legal resident of South Carolina;
- have been fully admitted into the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) degree program at the University of South Carolina (full or part-time status);
- have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service or other activities that reflect leadership abilities;
- have shown outstanding academic performance; and
- are a member of an underserved/underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Application Requirements

The following information must be submitted / postmarked by Monday, June 30, 2025:

- *proof of admission* into the MLIS degree program at the University of South Carolina;
- *completed application* for the Ethel Bolden Minority Fellowship;
- *current résumé*;
- *300-word essay* that describes the applicant's interest and any work in the field of librarianship, including volunteer work (also indicate what specific competencies or characteristics the applicant believes he/she can bring to the librarian profession and level of community involvement and leadership potential); and
- *two letters of reference* from individuals who are able to describe the applicant's academic, work and/or community service achievements. References should be placed in sealed envelopes and postmarked no later than **Monday, June 30, 2025**.

Application Submission

Please submit all required documents to:

Tina Gills

Development Director
tgills@richlandlibrary.com
Richland Library
1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201

Frequency and Amount of Awards

Up to two Ethel Bolden Minority Fellowships will be awarded* annually in the amount of \$3,500 each (Fall semester and Spring semester). Fellows will receive payment as partial upfront (50%) and successful completion remaining (50%).

Fellowship Expectations

Fellows are expected to work on a library project for 7-10 hours per month at a Richland Library location for one semester (Fall or Spring) and make a brief presentation on the scope and deliverables of their project at a Richland Library Friends and Foundation Board meeting.

Deadline for Application

All requested forms must be postmarked by Monday, June 30, 2025.

Notification of Awards

Applicants will be notified regarding their status by Thursday, July 31, 2025.

* The selection committee reserves the right to elect not to award the fellowship if it does not receive at least one complete application from a candidate meeting the high standards of the fellowship.



Ethel Bolden
Minority Fellowship

2025–2026
APPLICATION

Personal Information

First Name Middle Last Name

Street Address

City State ZIP

Phone E-mail

Pronouns

Are you a South Carolina resident?

Please check one

YES NO

Indicate if you are a member of an underserved/underrepresented racial or ethnic group.

Please check one

- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- Black or African American
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
- Other (*please indicate*):

Application Requirements

In order for the application to be considered, applicant must submit this completed form, proof of admission, résumé, essay, and reference letters.

Two letters of reference must be mailed in separate sealed envelopes to the address indicated and postmarked no later than Monday, June 30, 2025.

Direct application materials and questions to:

Tina Gills
Development Director

Richland Library
1431 Assembly Street
Columbia, SC 29201

803.929.3424
tgills@richlandlibrary.com

**APPLICATION DEADLINE IS
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 2025.**

