

# Harvard Law School's



**SUMMER PUBLIC INTEREST FUNDING  
PROGRAM**

**2020**

# SPIF 2020



Please take a moment to read through this Power Point presentation which outlines the program and the requirements of SPIF. As a SPIF participant you are responsible for familiarizing yourself with the information included in this presentation and on the SPIF website.

At the end of the slides you will find a link where you can log in and complete the SPIF Registration Form. You will need to verify you have read through this presentation and understand the requirements and policies of SPIF. The Registration Form should take less than one minute to complete.

# Agenda



- What is SPIF?
- What isn't SPIF?
- 2019 Statistics
- Eligibility
- Funding Amounts
- Types of Funding
- Funding Caps
- Supplemental Funding
- Effect of SPIF on Financial Aid
- SPIF and Taxes
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- Summary

# What is SPIF?



Summer Public Interest Funding (SPIF) is a program that provides funds to HLS students who choose to pursue positions in the public interest during the summer.

The mission of SPIF is to support substantive law-related public service summer employment under the supervision of a legal professional in a non-profit, government, NGO, IGO, or approved private public interest firm setting.

In recognition of the fact that these positions may provide valuable experiences for students, but are typically unpaid, HLS developed the SPIF program to make it possible for students to accept unpaid or underpaid summer public interest jobs that might otherwise be a financially exclusive option.

# What is SPIF? (continued)



- SPIF is a modest award intended to help cover modest living expenses
- SPIF is awarded in exchange for a commitment to work 280 hours over a minimum of 8 weeks
- SPIF funded positions will qualify for Pro-Bono credit so long as they are supervised by a licensed attorney
- SPIF may be paid as a Federal Work Study (FWS) award or a SPIF Stipend. All students working in the US should be prepared to receive FWS.

# What isn't SPIF?



- SPIF is not comparable to the pay at firm jobs – you will need to do some careful budgeting!
- SPIF is not free money; you have to fulfill the SPIF requirements or we will require repayment of your award

# Last Summer...



- We awarded \$2.3 million to 456 students
  - 350 1Ls, 98 2Ls, 8 SJDs
- The Average award was approximately \$4,970 (~\$621 per week)
- 49 students worked internationally in 28 different countries
- SPIF funded students in 32 different states as well as the District of Columbia

# Eligible Students



## **SPIF is awarded to:**

- 1L JD students
  - *Volunteer hours may be required, details TBD*
- 2L JD students
- HLS students in approved joint degree programs through which they will be on campus for either semester surrounding the summer
  - *Students who have completed 2 years at HLS are considered 2LS for SPIF purposes.*
  - *Those joint degree students who have only completed 1 year at HLS are considered 1Ls.*
- SJD students, in residence both the spring and fall semesters

## **Please note, SPIF is not available for:**

- Entering students
- LLMs
- Graduates of HLS
- Non-resident SJDs



# Eligible Employment



## **SPIF is available for:**

- Law related positions at government agencies, non-governmental organizations, non-profit organizations, and their international equivalents
- Small private firms that primarily work in the public interest **MIGHT** qualify for SPIF (pre-approval is **required**)
- Splitting your summer between two eligible positions
- Employment between the last day of exams and first day of classes (May 15<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup> for 1Ls, May 8<sup>th</sup> – September 7<sup>th</sup> for 2Ls and SJDs)

## **Please note, SPIF is not available for:**

- Judicial clerkships
- Research assistant positions
- Jobs on political campaigns
- Public sector jobs that are **NOT** law related (i.e. policy positions)
- Work done during the academic year
- Self-employment
- Work that is not law-related

# Funding Amounts



All SPIF awards are based on 280 hours of work completed over a minimum of 8 weeks. A maximum of 37.5 hours per week will be counted towards the 280 hour requirement. Any work beyond the 37.5 hours per week is considered volunteer work and will not count towards the 280 hour requirement.

\$5500 – on Financial Aid\*

\$3600 – not on Financial Aid\*

\*On financial aid is defined as being eligible for, and receiving, at least \$20,500 in funding that is certified by the Student Financial Services office. The funding can include (but is not limited to) grants, loans, fellowships, and/or scholarships from an outside source. Federal Work Study, SPIF stipends or grants, and SPIF loans do not count towards the \$20,500 threshold.

# 2L and SJD Bonus



2Ls and SJDs are eligible to receive an additional check at the **end of the summer** for completing 315 or 350 hours of work.

Again, a maximum of 37.5 hours per week will count towards the total number of hours worked, so a minimum of 9 calendar weeks are needed to reach 315 hours and 10 calendar weeks are needed to reach 350 hours.

Hours Completed	Total Award if On Financial Aid	Total Award if Not on Aid
280 – 314	\$5500	\$3600
315 – 349	\$6187	\$4050
350+	\$6875	\$4500

# Types of Funding



SPIF is awarded in one of two ways:



**Summer  
Stipend**



**Federal Work  
Study**

# Type: Federal Work Study



- Awarded to students who receive financial aid of at least the \$20,500 Direct Unsubsidized or other loans, and are eligible according to federal eligibility guidelines
- Awarded to students whose jobs are eligible for FWS
- Distributed via 7 payments; a “start-up” grant roughly equivalent to 2 weeks worth of pay on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 6 equal paychecks during the summer (subject to change as needed)
- Recipients of FWS must submit a FAFSA for the 2020-21 academic year
- Recipients of FWS are added to the University payroll and need to complete pre-employment paperwork. ALL students working in the US should be prepared to complete this paperwork in April and should have the necessary identifications available. Most commonly this is your passport **OR** your driver’s license AND Social Security Card; **if you do not have these forms in your possession now please be sure obtain them by April.**

# Type: Summer Stipend



- Awarded to students who are ineligible for FWS
- Awarded to students whose jobs are ineligible for FWS
- Lump sum award distributed on May 1<sup>st</sup>
- Awarded to all SJDs

\*\* The majority of students will receive Federal Work Study\*\*

# Funding Caps



In an effort to disburse funds as evenly as possible, SPIF awards up to a Funding Cap. This means an individual's combination of funding from all sources (employer paid wages, travel, and/or housing expenses, fellowships, SPIF) cannot exceed the set level. We will ask you about supplemental funding sources before we disburse funds and again at the end of the summer. This may result in you returning some of the SPIF funds.

## 2020 Funding Caps

1Ls	→	\$7500
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2Ls, SJDs, and students with dependent children	→	\$9000
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# Funding Caps (continued)



- Any job that qualifies for SPIF funding based on the type of employment is subject to the Funding Cap
  - For example, if you earn \$6000 for 6 weeks at the DOJ and \$0 for 8 weeks at the ACLU a 1L would be eligible for a maximum of \$1500 and a 2L would be eligible for a maximum of \$3000 from SPIF
- If you receive an HLS affiliated supplemental fellowship we will divide those funds over 8 weeks
- If you receive employer wages or a non-HLS affiliated stipend, we will apply the entirety of those funds toward the funding cap.



# Supplemental Funding



Supplemental funding is a way to increase your summer income as much as possible.

There are five sources of Supplemental Funding:

- HLS affiliated supplemental funding sources
- Stipend or pay from an employer
- Additional employment
- Non-HLS fellowships and internships
- SPIF Summer Loan Program

# Supplemental Funding Sources



## • **HLS Specific Fellowships**

• Chayes Fellowship 

• Barron Fellowship

• Vorenberg Fellowship

• Human Rights Program Fellowship 

• Justice Stevens Fellowship

• Sutin Fellowship



The Chayes and HRP Fellowships are generally specific to international placements.

## • **Non-HLS Fellowships and Internships**

- Outside fellowships may be found via internet searches and by using OPIA as a resource. One good site is: <http://www.psjd.org/>

# Supplemental Funding Sources (continued)



- **Stipend or Pay From an Employer**

- Don't be afraid to ask your employer if they can pay you for your work, cover your travel expenses or provide housing. These amounts will all count towards your funding cap but could be an additional resource.

- **Additional Employment**

- There are 15+ weeks between the last day of exams and the first day of classes. Getting a second, non-SPIF eligible job during that time period will not affect your SPIF award so long as you meet the 280 hour requirement at your SPIF position.

# Supplemental Funding Examples



If you receive a supplemental award of \$4000 – either as a fellowship or employer wages – your SPIF eligibility would be calculated as follows:

	1L	2L
Funding Cap:	\$7500	\$9000
Supplemental Funding:	\$4000	\$4000
Maximum SPIF Award:	\$3500	\$5000
Maximum 2L Bonus	N/A	\$0

Although 1Ls are eligible for \$5500 the amount would be reduced to fit under the Funding Cap

A 2L could receive up to \$1375 in additional funding for working 350 hours, but this individual would not get a bonus in order to stay within the Funding Cap

# Effect of SPIF on Financial Aid



- If your total gross earnings are below approximately \$8,500, your student contribution from summer income will be \$0.
- Your “LIPP eligible borrowing limit” (the amount of student loan borrowing that is eligible for future LIPP loan repayment assistance) will be higher for the next academic year than if you earned more than \$8,500

# Effect of A Firm Job on Financial Aid



Salary: **\$35,000**

Taxes: **\$ 7,312**

Base Summer Living Allowance: **\$ 8,200**

Earnings less deductions: **\$19,488**

**x 90%**

Financial Aid Student Contribution: **\$17,539**

Therefore, you'll have **\$10,149** (salary minus taxes minus student contribution) to live on for the summer.

# Summary of Effect on Financial Aid



From a financial aid perspective, earning a high summer income:

- Increases your assessed student contribution
- Reduces your eligibility for HLS Grant assistance (and your LIPP eligible borrowing limit)
- Means you will have more to live on for the summer, but you keep only 10% of your net earnings (after taxes) over \$8,200
- Note: if you are not already a Grant recipient, you can use your savings from a high summer income to reduce your borrowing



Please note, there is a financial aid penalty (an imputed student contribution) for NOT working a minimum of 280 hours over 8 weeks!



# SPIF and Taxes



- If you file taxes, you **must** report your SPIF earnings
- Taxes will be withheld from FWS earnings
- FWS recipients will receive a W2 from the University for their wages
- Summer stipend funding does not have taxes withheld, except for some international students
- You will not get a W2 or 1099 from the University for your summer stipend, so for tax purposes, keep your award notification as your official documentation



# Frequently Asked Questions



- **Will I get more funding if I'm going to an expensive city or if I'll be working internationally?**
  - ❖ SPIF is location neutral so we do not award additional funds to students going to expensive cities. These students should especially look into supplemental funding!
- **Can I get my funding early?**
  - ❖ Unfortunately, the earliest we can disburse funds is May 1st.
- **Can I choose whether to receive FWS or a Stipend?**
  - ❖ Because the SPIF program is dependent on full use of FWS funds we cannot allow students to choose their form of funding. The SPIF office makes award source determinations based on eligibility and guidelines.
- **If I work more than 8 weeks will I get additional funding?**
  - ❖ 2Ls and SJDs are eligible for additional funding, however, we do not provide additional funding to 1Ls.
- **If my employer provides housing or travel will that have an effect on my award?**
  - ❖ Yes, funding from all sources will be considered towards your funding cap so your employer will be required to report the value of these benefits.

# (More) Frequently Asked Questions



- **I'll be able to work 280 hours in 7 weeks, does that meet the requirement?**
  - ❖ No, only 37.5 hours per week count towards the 280 hour requirement so you will need 8 calendar weeks to complete your work.
- **What constitutes a week?**
  - ❖ Harvard's work week runs Sunday through Saturday.
- **What if I work more than 37.5 hours in a week?**
  - ❖ Those hours will be considered volunteer time, and while they do not count towards the SPIF you can keep a second Time Log which you can submit to the Clinical and Pro Bono Office. However, the Time Log you submit to SPIF cannot include more than 37.5 hours per week.

# How much funding will I get?



The next series of slides show funding examples for the following situations:

1. 1L, 2L or SJD student working 280 hours over 7 weeks
2. 1L, 2L or SJD student working 310 hours over 8 weeks
3. 1L student working 390 hours over 10 weeks
4. 2L or SJD student working 310 hours over 8 weeks
5. 2L or SJD student working 350 hours over 9 weeks
6. 2L or SJD student working 390 hours over 10 weeks

# Award Example #1



**1L, 2L or SJD working 280 hours over a time period of 7 weeks – NOT ELIGIBLE**

	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>SPIF Eligible Hours</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Funding (on aid)</b>	<b>Funding (not on aid)</b>
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 2	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 3	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 4	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week7	40	37.5	2.5	\$0	\$0
Week 8	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
Week 9	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
Week 10	0	0	0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>262.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Only 37.5 hours per week count towards the SPIF requirement, so you must work at least 8 calendar weeks.**

# Award Example #2



## 1L, 2L or SJD working over a time period of 8 weeks

	Total Hours	SPIF Eligible Hours	Volunteer Hours	Funding (on aid)	Funding (not on aid)
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	<b>\$5500</b>	<b>\$3600</b>
Week 2	35	35	0		
Week 3	38	37.5	0.5		
Week 4	35	35	0		
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 7	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 8	42	37.5	4.5		
Week 9	0	0	0		
Week 10	0	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>15</b>		

**This is an example of a standard 8 week award with volunteer hours reported.**

# Award Example #3



## 1L working over a time period of 10 weeks

	Total Hours	SPIF Eligible Hours	Volunteer Hours	Funding (on aid)	Funding (not on aid)
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	<b>\$5500</b>	<b>\$3600</b>
Week 2	35	35	0		
Week 3	38	37.5	0.5		
Week 4	35	35	0		
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 7	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 8	42	37.5	4.5		
Week 9	40	0	40		
Week 10	40	0	40		
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>95</b>		

**In this example the student worked 10 weeks and will receive volunteer credit for weeks 9 and 10, but no additional wages because as a 1L they are paid for a maximum of 8 weeks/280 hours.**

# Award Example #4



## 2L or SJD working over a time period 8 weeks

	Total Hours	SPIF Eligible Hours	Volunteer Hours	Funding (on aid)	Funding (not on aid)
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	<b>\$5500</b>	<b>\$3600</b>
Week 2	35	35	0		
Week 3	38	37.5	0.5		
Week 4	35	35	0		
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 7	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 8	42	37.5	4.5		
Week 9	0	0	0		
Week 10	0	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>15</b>		

In this example the 2L worked 8 weeks and will receive the standard 8 week award; although they reported a total of 310 hours, 15 of the hours are volunteer and do not count towards SPIF credit because a maximum of 37.5 hours count per week.

# Award Example #5



## 2L or SJD working over a time period of 9 weeks

	Total Hours	SPIF Eligible Hours	Volunteer Hours	Funding (on aid)	Funding (not on aid)
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	<b>\$6187</b>	<b>\$4050</b>
Week 2	35	35	0		
Week 3	38	37.5	0.5		
Week 4	35	35	0		
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 7	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 8	42	37.5	4.5		
Week 9	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 10	0	0	0		
<b>Total</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>332.5</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>* \$687 disbursed in the fall</b>	<b>* \$450 disbursed in the fall</b>

In this example the 2L/SJD completed work over 9 weeks and is eligible for one week of additional funding.



# Award Example #6



## 2L or SJD working over a time period of 10 weeks

	<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>SPIF Eligible Hours</b>	<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>Funding (on aid)</b>	<b>Funding (not on aid)</b>
Week 1	40	37.5	2.5	<b>\$6875</b>	<b>\$4500</b>
Week 2	35	35	0		
Week 3	38	37.5	0.5		
Week 4	35	35	0		
Week 5	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 6	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 7	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 8	42	37.5	4.5		
Week 9	40	37.5	2.5		
Week 10	40	37.5	2.5		
<b>Total</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>* \$1375 disbursed in the fall</b>	<b>* \$900 disbursed in the fall</b>

In this example the 2L/SJD completed work over 10 weeks and is eligible for and additional 2 weeks of funding. This is the maximum award a 2L/SJD can receive from SPIF.

# Summary



- Please complete the online registration by February 14<sup>th</sup> to ensure you are on our email list, even if you are unsure whether you will ultimately participate in SPIF.
- You will receive the same amount of funding regardless of the TYPE (FWS vs. Stipend) of funding you are assigned
- Apply for other funding sources – utilize OPIA as a resource
- You MUST plan on being at your work site for 8 calendar weeks – keep this in mind if you plan to participate in EIP or Law Review. We do not prorate awards for shorter commitments.
- **Pay attention to the deadlines!**

# Timeline



**A more detailed Timeline is available on our website but please note the following upcoming deadlines:**

- **February 14<sup>th</sup>:** online Application Form due
- **March 27<sup>th</sup>:** deadline to report job and submit supporting documents in order to receive funds May 1<sup>st</sup> (this form will not be available until February)
- **May 1<sup>st</sup>:** first stipend checks disbursed
- **September 11<sup>th</sup>:** Supervisor Evaluation and Time Log (signed by your supervisor) as well as the online Placement Evaluation due

**Please note:** Failure to submit the final requirements on September 11<sup>th</sup> will result in the forfeiture of your SPIF eligibility and your student bill will be charged for the entirety of your SPIF award.

# Thank you!



**Please complete the online SPIF Registration form to verify your interest in participating in SPIF for the summer of 2020. The Registration form is available in the SFS portal under the SPIF tab:**

**[Register for SPIF NOW!](#)**

## Questions?

SPIF is administered via Student Financial Services, please direct any program questions to:

[spif@law.harvard.edu](mailto:spif@law.harvard.edu)

617-495-0643

or stop by WCC 5027