



To apply for this fellowship, please go to [www.stoneleighfoundation.org](http://www.stoneleighfoundation.org) and complete the Individual Application. Send the application to Shira Goodman at [shira.goodman@ceasefirepa.org](mailto:shira.goodman@ceasefirepa.org). For questions, call 215-923-3151.

## **Developing Strategies to Prevent Youth from Obtaining Illegal Firearms**

**Partnering Organization and Its Mission:** CeaseFire PA is Pennsylvania's leading gun violence prevention organization. It is a coalition of law enforcement leaders and personnel, mayors, faith leaders, community organizations and individual Pennsylvanians taking a stand against gun violence through education, organizing and advocacy. Its mission is to reduce gun violence, stop the flow of illegal guns into our communities, and keep guns out of the hands of those who should not have them. CeaseFirePA has focused on advocacy in the legislature and the courts – seeking to influence policy makers to enact common sense gun laws and judges to treat gun crimes seriously

**The Problem:** CeaseFire PA's work to date has focused mostly on partnerships with adults and established organizations, but it knows that the gun violence problem has deep roots that are affecting youth. The organization would like to study how and where young offenders in Philadelphia obtain their firearms, with an ultimate goal of devising better policies and procedures to disrupt these channels and fight the influx of illegal guns into our communities.

**The Solution:** The goal of this Fellowship project is to focus on how juveniles and young adults obtain guns in Philadelphia in order to develop prevention strategies. There will be a data-driven portion of the project, based on existing court records, as well as a more anecdotal piece, based on interviews with offenders and non-offenders. Through a study of arrest and court records, and meetings with offenders, the Fellow would seek to discover the sources and paths that put guns into the hands of younger offenders. Ultimately, the Fellow will work to discern patterns of behavior and pathways of transactions. Together, the two types of research will help CeaseFire PA develop a fuller picture of the channels through which guns travel to young people in Philadelphia to determine the pressure points where changes in tactics can have an impact. At CeaseFire PA, a big focus has always been on easy access to guns by those who should not have them -- whether because of criminal history, mental health history, or age. This project will help CeaseFire PA develop new strategies for combatting the problem of easy access to firearms. Preliminary discussions have been had with the District Attorney's Office regarding the project, including partnering on obtaining data and developing a research methodology. In addition, the Emerging Leader Fellow will coordinate with Stoneleigh Fellow Richard Greenwald, who is managing Philadelphia's Youth Violence Prevention Strategy.

**Outcomes:** The research will culminate in a report that will summarize the findings of the research and interviews to demonstrate the way illegal guns are accessed by youth in Philadelphia. It is anticipated that there may be opportunities with state and national partners to present the research and findings during various points of the project.

**Desired Candidate Qualifications:** Due to the nature of this project, the ideal candidate will have earned a graduate degree between May 2012 and May 2015 in social work, law, criminology or other related fields and have excellent research and writing skills.