



INSTITUTE
for PUBLIC
SERVICE

1610 University Avenue | Knoxville, TN 37921
(865) 974-6621 | ips.tennessee.edu

FY25 Ely Public Service Experience Endowment Fund Case for Support



Endowment History and Purpose

The Need

Current data suggests that neurodiverse individuals, including those on the autism spectrum, are underrepresented in public service careers. A contributing factor is the limited availability of work-study programs that provide practical experience in these fields. According to the U.S. Department of Labor and organizations like the Autism Society, adults with autism face higher rates of unemployment and underemployment than individuals with other disabilities.

In response, Dr. Macel and Jamie Ely established the Ely Public Service Experience Fund. This endowment is designed to support students on the autism spectrum by providing access to immersive internship opportunities with the University of Tennessee's Institute for Public Service (IPS). IPS offers a dynamic environment to cultivate future public service leaders, ensuring access to both serve and be served in our communities.

The Vision

Established on August 12, 2024, the Ely Public Service Experience Endowment was created with the vision of connecting students on the autism spectrum with opportunities to discover a career in public service.

The fund is managed by the University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc. (UTFI) in partnership with IPS. The investment income will support students on the autism spectrum accessing public service internships and other career exploration opportunities offered across IPS.

While the fund prioritizes students on the autism spectrum, students with other documented disabilities are encouraged to apply and will be considered.

Student Public Service Career Opportunities at IPS

IPS and its agencies offer a variety of career exploration opportunities targeting students with an interest in public service including, but not limited to:

- Summer or semester internship programs.
- Student worker positions.
- Research and capstone projects.

Compensation for paid student employment opportunities varies, but generally students earn ~\$14 per hour and work between 20 and 40 hours per week, as their enrollment schedule permits.

Fundraising Progress & Goals

IPS and the Ely Family are grateful for the incredible response, interest and support the fund has received within its first year. As of June 30, 2025, the Ely Public Service Experience Endowment is the #1 fund supported by total dollars raised and the #4 fund supported by total donor count, over all IPS gift and endowed funds.

Dollars Raised: \$30,073

Total Donors: 25

Endowment Fundraising Goal: \$125,000

Securing a minimum of \$125,000 or greater in gifts for the endowment would generate investment income at a level which could support one full-time (40-hour) or two part-time (20-hour), 10-week, public service career experience opportunities per year.

How to Make a Gift

Cash Gifts

Follow the URL or use your smart device camera to scan the QR code to make a one-time or recurring online gift using a credit card or digital wallet.

giving.tennessee.edu/ely



Make checks payable to the “UT Foundation,” and in the memo include “Ely Public Service Experience Endowment” or “ELYPS_E01”. Mail payment to:

UT Foundation
1525 University Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37921

Matching Gifts

Most corporate matching gift programs require the donor to submit a completed paper form or complete an online form to accompany each personal gift. If you’re not sure about your company’s process, check with your company’s human resources department.

To check if your employer is already registered in our system to match your gift, visit utfi.org/giving/matching-gifts/.

For your convenience, you may submit your completed matching gift form via email to kristen.davis@tennessee.edu and copy matching@utfi.org.

Stocks and Securities

Gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual fund shares can be a tax efficient way of giving. Gifts are received electronically through the UT Foundation’s broker, BNY Mellon. Your broker initiates the transfer, and a receipt will be issued by the UT Foundation when the gift is posted. Contact Kristen Davis for full instructions.

Real Estate or Planned Gifts

If you want to make a planned gift of real estate, consider residences, vacation homes, farms, commercial buildings or undeveloped land.

Access complementary resources on planned giving at tiny.utk.edu/ips-gift-plans.

Contact Kristen Davis, director of development at the UT Institute for Public Service, with questions or to request assistance.

- kristen.davis@tennessee.edu
- (865) 974-9609

Watch a video to meet the Elys and learn more about the fund!

