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MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

ABOUT

THE MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

In 1973, Congress established the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) to increase the number of well-trained, culturally competent professionals in clinical practice, research, education, and policy development who are committed to improving behavioral health outcomes for underserved, ethnic minority communities. Through the MFP, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) provides support for the master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral development of nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, professional counselors, and marriage and family therapists who will serve racial/ethnic, underrepresented, and underserved minority populations. The MFP is part of the larger agency effort to strengthen the behavioral health workforce.

The MFP aims to reduce health disparities and improve behavioral health outcomes for underserved racial and ethnic populations by:

1. Increasing the knowledge of mental and substance use disorder practitioners on issues related to prevention, treatment, and recovery support for individuals who are from racial and ethnic minority populations and who have a mental or substance use disorder.
2. Improving the quality of mental and substance use disorder prevention and treatment services delivered to racial and ethnicity minority populations; and
3. Increasing the number of culturally competent mental and substance use disorder professionals who teach, administer services, conduct research, and provide direct mental or substance use disorder services to racial and ethnic minority populations.

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. African American, Alaskan Native, American Indian, Asian American, Hispanic/Latino, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students are especially encouraged to apply. See the SAMHSA website (<https://www.samhsa.gov/minority-fellowship-program>) for more detailed information.

MFP Grantee Organizations

Eight grantee organizations currently administer the program through individualized curricula. Visit individual MFP grantees' websites for information on program eligibility and application procedures:

- [American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy](#)
- [American Nurses Association](#)
- [American Psychiatric Association](#)
- [American Psychological Association](#)
- [Council on Social Work Education](#)
- [National Board for Certified Counselors](#)
 - Subrecipient: [NAADAC: The Association for Addiction Professionals](#)
- [American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry](#)

MFP BENEFITS

Mentorship. Fellows are matched with mentors who provide support, encouragement, advice (personal, social, and academic), and information on promising practices in their field of study.

MFP Coordinating Center. The Coordinating Center provides technical assistance to MFP grantees and coordinates training and career enhancement activities for fellows.

Networking and Interdisciplinary Collaboration. Fellows have access to the MFP web portal. Currently, nearly 2,000 individuals are listed in the MFP Directory as current and alumni fellows. The Fellow of the Month profile also highlights the work of current and alumni fellows.

Scholarships. The MFP provides financial support to fellows pursuing their master's, doctoral, and postdoctoral studies.

The Resource Library and Quarterly Newsletter. The online resource library is a repository of more than 1,700 multimedia materials on behavioral health disparities, including relevant research, practitioner guidance, clinical tools, and webinar trainings. A quarterly e-newsletter is also published, of which some articles are authored by current fellows, who work with professional editors to see their work through to publication.

Training. Through SAMHSA and the MFP grantees, fellows are offered cutting-edge behavioral health training opportunities, which range from general program orientation activities to current and progressive treatment approaches and healthcare policy changes.

Workforce Development. An overarching goal of the MFP is to ensure access to behavioral health services for all Americans, regardless of language or culture, thereby reducing health disparities and improving community health and well-being.