

# Application Webinar



**SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

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**Doris Duke Fellowships**

*for the Promotion of Child Well-Being*

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*Seeking innovations to prevent child abuse and neglect*

# Agenda



1. **Goals of the Fellowship**
2. **Overview**
3. **Key Qualifications**
4. **Examples of Dissertation Topics**
5. **Performance Expectations**
6. **Mentors**
7. **Application Materials and Timeframe**
8. **Selection Process**
9. **Reflections from Fellows**

# Goals of the Fellowship



- **Develop leaders in the child abuse and neglect prevention field**
- **Increase interdisciplinary knowledge and research**
- **Foster the creation of new knowledge and strategies to prevent child maltreatment**
- **Increase the visibility and effectiveness of the child abuse and neglect prevention field**

# Overview



- Awarded to 15 doctoral students each year
- Two years of financial support and access to a robust learning community
- \$30,000 per year, paid in 3 installments (contingent on meeting expectations during first year)
- Research will be guided by an *academic mentor* selected by the fellow (typically the dissertation chair)
- A *policy mentor* will help facilitate the link between research and practice

# Key Qualifications



- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Enrolled in an accredited U.S. doctoral program – *all disciplines* encouraged to apply
- Will have substantially completed all coursework required to be advanced to candidacy by August 31, 2018
- Dissertation focuses on some aspect of child well-being and the prevention of child maltreatment in the United States (or applicable to the US)

# Examples of Dissertation Topics



Fellows' dissertations **must** be focused on some aspect of child well-being and the prevention of child maltreatment. Examples of dissertation topics are listed below (not an exhaustive list):

- *Poverty and its impact on parental capacity and collective efficacy*
- *Cost benefit analysis and other economic analysis*
- *Policy analysis*
- *Sexual exploitation*
- *Sexual abuse prevention/treatment*
- *Father involvement*
- *Intersection of disability and child welfare*
- *Community prevention efforts*
- *Family engagement and retention in social service programs*
- *Research exploring the behavioral, neurobiological, social, and environmental mechanisms that mediate the association between exposure to abuse and neglect and their behavioral and neurobiological outcomes*
- *Social entrepreneurship and innovations in prevention*
- *Child welfare reforms*
- *Youth aging out of care*
- *Early intervention and home visiting*
- *Community violence*

# Performance Expectations



- Make measurable progress toward dissertation completion
- Attend the annual meeting in Chicago each fall and the mid-year meeting at a partner university each winter/spring
- Engage in the fellowship peer learning network with an openness to new ideas and interdisciplinary thought, including small group projects, webinars, and active participation on Ning (online network)
- Active engagement with policy and academic mentors
- Submit an annual progress report
- Participate in evaluation activities (e.g., interviews)

# **Academic Mentor Role**



- **Supervise fellow's dissertation research and advancement through doctoral program**
- **Develop fellow's technical research skills and applicability of research to advancing policy and practice**
- **Share the fellowship's commitment to knowledge development through interdisciplinary deliberations**
- **Actively engage in the fellowship's learning networks**

# Policy Mentor Role



- Engage in regular communication with fellow
- Assist fellow in framing research questions with an eye toward maximizing policy and practice relevance
- Introduce fellow to potential opportunities to link their work to current policy initiatives or practice reforms
- Offer fellow assistance in improving his/her ability to communicate research findings to non-academic audiences

# Choosing Policy Mentors: The Rules of Engagement



1. Identify a mentor with unique experiences that will compliment your mentorship team.
2. You should be able to easily explain how their work and your research interests align, and how the mentorship relationship can advance your understanding and application of policy.
3. Meet with potential mentor to explain their role and assess their availability and capacity to actively participate.
4. Brainstorm the types of experiences you'd like to have through this relationship and discuss with your mentor. It's helpful to think about how to make this a mutually beneficial collaboration.

# Application Materials



Interested candidates are required to submit all application components to Chapin Hall by emailing [ddfellowships@chapinhall.org](mailto:ddfellowships@chapinhall.org). Applications will be accepted through **11:59 PM CT on December 1, 2017**. The following documents are required and can be downloaded from our website ([dorisdukefellowships.org](http://dorisdukefellowships.org)):

- Application Form
- Personal and Research Statement
- Curriculum Vitae
- Academic Mentor Recommendation Form
- Policy/Practice Mentor Recommendation Form
- Additional Recommendation Form
- Letter of Commitment from the dean or chair of applicants' doctoral program
  - It is our expectation that receipt of the fellowship will not impact a student's access to current support they are receiving from their host university with respect to tuition waivers and health care coverage. We hope that deans/department chairs will address this issue in their letter of commitment.

# Application Time Frame



- ❖ **August 1 - December 1, 2017** Application submission period
- ❖ **December 1, 2017 – March 2018:** Applications will be reviewed; the selection committee will arrange individual telephone interviews with finalists
- ❖ **April 2018:** Notification of the selection committee decisions will be e-mailed to applicants

# Selection Process



- What is the selection committee looking for?
  - Relevance of Dissertation
    - ✦ Topic **must** be tied to child maltreatment and the prevention thereof, family functioning, parenting, etc.
    - ✦ While the broad focus is on well-being, the fellowship is specifically intended to address interventions in **child maltreatment prevention**

# Selection Process



- **What is the selection committee looking for?**
  - **Clarity and rigor of research design**
    - ✦ Do the methods match the research question?
    - ✦ Are the methods rigorous?
    - ✦ Is the design articulated clearly enough that it is evident the applicant is familiar with and able to carry out the proposed work?
  - **Strong recommendation letters**
    - ✦ Letters should be from someone familiar with the candidate and able to candidly speak to their strengths and weaknesses
    - ✦ Letters should demonstrate a commitment to the applicant's success academically and in the policy realm
    - ✦ Letters that state "I have not met the candidate yet, but they are strong on paper" are generally not well received.

# Selection Process



- **What is the selection committee looking for?**
  - **Intangibles**
    - ✦ Does the timeline make sense? Will the candidate be able to accomplish everything within the timeline?
    - ✦ Is the research design really feasible?
    - ✦ Does the candidate have a demonstrated commitment to the field of child maltreatment prevention?
    - ✦ Does the applicant have support from their home institution to help them succeed?

# The WORK: Put together the Application



- 1. START TODAY**
- 2. Connect with a fellow: look for a match in discipline and/or research topic**
- 3. Identify and meet w/ mentors: Academic: chair, others? & Policy: relationship, time availability, focus area**
- 4. Develop a specific research plan: literature review, recruitment plan, data access plan, preliminary results etc.**
- 5. Thoughtful use of references to existing literature and programs: expect an author might review your proposal**
- 6. Write, Re-write, Feedback >1, Re-write, Rewrite...**

# The REWARD: Benefits of the Fellowship



The Fellows (all of them)



Exposure to field leaders



Policy mentor relationship enhances dissertation



Opportunities enabled by the stipend support

# Questions?



**ASK THEM NOW  
OR  
EMAIL:  
DDFELLOWSHIPS@CHAPINHALL.ORG**