

Application Webinar



SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

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Doris Duke Fellowships

for the Promotion of Child Well-Being

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**
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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. 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):

- 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**