

**National Workforce Expansion  
Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students:  
The Primary Care Project (PCP)**

**Overview**

This **one-year year scholarship of \$30,000** is available annually to 22 campus-based and Virtual Academic Center (VAC) students who will graduate in the spring or summer semesters of the last year of their MSW program. This scholarship is funded by a federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) through its Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS) program.

The scholarship will be awarded to students who are **committed** to providing primary care services in medically underserved communities (MUCs) in Southern California and throughout the United States. Recipients of this scholarship must complete **qualified** field placements and be from either the Adult Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW) or the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) department. They must meet the federal definition of a student from a disadvantaged background, which includes under-represented minorities (URMs), first-generation students, and those considered educationally, environmentally, or economically disadvantaged. Students selected for the PCP will receive trainings in primary care/integrated behavioral health internships and will commit to seeking employment in primary care settings with a focus on MUCs upon graduation. **Please keep in mind that this program relies on external federal funding every year.**

A **qualified field placement** is defined as follows:

- *Qualified field placements may include various health and mental health settings. Primary Care as defined by the Institute of Medicine: the provision of integrated, accessible health care services by clinicians who are accountable for addressing a large majority of personal health care needs, developing a sustained partnership with patients, and practicing in the context of family and community. (IOM. 1996. Primary care: America's health in a new era. Washington, DC: National Academy Press). The focus of primary care should be reflected in the delivery of community-based, integrated behavioral, and outpatient health care services through interprofessional/ interdisciplinary collaboration as behavioral and mental health primary care practitioners. Examples of qualified placements include hospitals, community health centers, school district wellness centers, psychiatric treatment facilities, dental clinics, community-based mental health agencies with integrated behavioral health care services, multidisciplinary projects such as contact tracing and testing centers that include social services, and patient navigation programs, among others.*

**The goals of the PCP are:**

- (1) Recruiting, increasing, and retaining MSW students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to working in primary care/integrated behavioral health settings;
- (2) Improving education and preparation of MSW interns from disadvantaged

- backgrounds to work in primary care/integrated behavioral health settings;
- (3) Increasing the number and capacity of primary care/integrated behavioral health agencies offering MSW internships; and
  - (4) Supporting participants to gain employment in primary care/integrated behavioral health settings.

### **Qualifications and Requirements**

To qualify and remain eligible for the 2021-2022 PCP scholarship, recipients must do the following:

- Graduate in spring or summer 2022. December graduates are not eligible.
- Intern in a primary care/integrated behavioral health setting approved for this project.
- Attend a mandatory virtual orientation during the summer in mid-August 2021 to review scholarship requirements.
- Be in their final internship experience of the MSW program and be from the Department of Adult Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW) or the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF).
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (3.0 or better GPA) and performance in courses, and complete trainings sessions, field placement, and any other scholarship program requirement within one (1) academic year.
- Attend and adequately participate in virtual training sessions offered once per semester to interact with HRSA BHWET and OWEP-funded stipend students.
- Attend and adequately participate in cohort support meetings offered once per semester.
- Participate in MSW program training in at least two (2) of the following three (3) treatment modalities: Motivational Interviewing (MI); Cognitive Behavior Therapy (CBT); Problem Solving Therapy (PST).
- Attend and participate in at least one job fair to pursue employment at agencies providing primary care/integrated behavioral treatment and intervention services.
- Register for the HRSA Health Workforce Connector.
- Obtain a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number for the purpose of collecting post-graduation employment demographics.
- **Be a citizen or national of the U.S., or a lawful permanent resident, or a foreign national having in their possession a visa permitting permanent residency, or a non-citizen national.**
  - ***Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible to participate.***
- Sign the PCP Student Commitment Form confirming understanding of all program qualification and requirements.

### **The PCP application will remain open through May 31, 2021.**

- For initial scholarship inquiry, please contact Ms. Mallory Ilizaliturri, Scholarships Advisor of Scholarship Programs Office, at <https://www.tfaforms.com/290674>.
- Campus-based students: for more information, please contact Prof. Jenebah Lewis at [jenebahl@usc.edu](mailto:jenebahl@usc.edu).
- VAC students: for more information, please contact Prof. Melissa Singh at [singhmi@usc.edu](mailto:singhmi@usc.edu).