

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

Overview

This **one-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 behavioral health and primary care services in medically underserved communities (MUCs) across Southern California and the United States. To qualify for the scholarship, recipients must complete a **qualified** placement offering direct practice in integrated health and behavioral health settings. Additionally, students must meet the **federal definition** of being from a disadvantaged background, which includes economic, educational, and/or environmental disadvantages. Those selected for the program will receive training in integrated behavioral health and primary care internships and will commit to seeking employment in behavioral health and primary care settings with a focus on MUCs upon graduation.

Please keep in mind that this program is federally funded and awarded annually.

The goals of the PCP are:

- 1) Recruiting, increasing, and retaining MSW students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to working in primary care and integrated behavioral health settings.
- 2) Improving the education and preparation of MSW students from disadvantaged backgrounds for working in primary care and integrated behavioral health settings.
- 3) Increasing the number and capacity of primary care and integrated behavioral health agencies offering MSW internships; and
- 4) Supporting participants to gain employment in primary care and integrated behavioral health settings.

Qualifications:

To be eligible for the 2023-2024 PCP scholarship, recipients must meet the following requirements:

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and add the USC Federal School Code: 001328.
- Meet the eligibility criteria based on HRSA guidelines and definitions for economically, educationally, and environmentally disadvantaged backgrounds. (Please refer to the Economic Disadvantage - 2022 Federal Poverty Guidelines chart below) and <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-20-006> (Details on pages 4-7 of the HRSA-20-006) for more information.)

2022 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	
Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630
For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,720 for each additional person.	

- Demonstrate economic disadvantage by providing family income below the federal poverty guidelines, as determined by FAFSA data and tax returns.
- Show educational disadvantage by having graduated from a low-performing high school.
- Show environmental disadvantage, such as being a first-generation college student, having a history of poverty or illness, being a single parent, having a history of foster care, experiencing homelessness, having a history of substance dependence and recovery, or having other life circumstances.
- Provide copies of *Federal Tax Return form 1040 for the past three years (tax years 2020, 2021, & 2022)* to maintain eligibility. If you are 24 years old or younger or listed as a dependent on someone else's return at any time during the past three years, you must also provide copies of the parent/guardian family's tax return for the past three years.
- Be a citizen or national of the U.S., or a lawful permanent resident, or a foreign national holding a visa for permanent residency, or a non-citizen national. *Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible to participate.*
- Submit a valid state-issued photo identification, passport, or birth certificate.
- Graduate in the spring or summer of 2024.

Requirements:

To be eligible for the 2023-2024 PCP scholarship, recipients must do the following:

- Sign the PCP Student Commitment Form, confirming their understanding of all program qualifications and requirements.
- Complete an internship in a primary care/integrated behavioral health setting that is approved for this project.
- Attend a mandatory virtual orientation during the summer in mid-August 2023 to review scholarship requirements.
- Be in their final internship year of the MSW program at a placement that offers direct practice in integrated health/behavioral health settings.
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress (3.0 GPA or higher).
- Demonstrate mastery of CSWE competencies in Practicum Education by receiving credit in practicum coursework.
- Attend one virtual professional development session per semester offered by the PCP scholarship program.
- Attend one virtual cohort support meeting 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 at least one job fair to pursue employment at agencies that provide 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.
- Complete all required information necessary for accurate reporting and project documentation for HRSA, including mid and final year student surveys.
- Report post-graduate employment information to the program quarterly for one year, as requested.

For initial scholarship inquiries, please contact the School's Scholarship Program Office at (213) 740-2013 or by completing a form at <http://www.tfaforms.com/290674>.

Application Process & Timeline:

Cohort 4 2023-2024 applications will be accepted between January 9, 2023, and May 1, 2023. Applications submitted by **March 6th** will receive priority consideration. While applications are due on **May 1st**, the selection process may extend into the summer as students who best fit the criteria and requirements of the scholarship program will be chosen.

Step 1: Submit an application which requires responses to determine eligibility criteria based on HRSA guidelines and definitions for educationally, environmentally, and economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Applicants who meet the basic eligibility criteria will move on to step 2.

Step 2: Applicants will be required to respond to four essay questions about their interest and commitment to working in a primary care setting providing behavioral health in medically underserved communities (MUCs).

- Why are you interested in applying for the Primary Care Project?
- What do you hope to gain from your placement experience?
- What knowledge, skills, and abilities do you possess that you would be able to contribute to your placement?
- What are your career goals related to providing integrated behavioral health services in primary care settings within medically underserved communities?

Step 3: Applicants must submit all supporting documents as requested. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

The award letters for the 2023-2024 academic year will be sent to PCP scholarship recipients during the summer of 2023. Questions regarding the HRSA application status can be sent to Ms. Keisha Lee, Administrative Support, Workforce Development Stipend/Scholarship Programs, via keishale@usc.edu. Award notifications will be sent to applicants by email during the summer of 2023.