

**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/primary care services in medically underserved communities (MUCs) in Southern California and throughout the United States. Recipients of this scholarship must complete **qualified** placements that offer direct practice in integrated health/behavioral health settings. Students must meet the **federal definition** of a student from a disadvantaged background, which includes **economically**, educationally and/or environmentally disadvantaged. Students selected for the PCP will receive training in integrated behavioral health/primary care internships and will commit to seeking employment in behavioral health/primary care settings with a focus on MUCs upon graduation.

Please keep in mind that this program is a federally funded program 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/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:

To be eligible for the 2024-2025 PCP scholarship, recipients must do the following:

- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Be sure to add USC Federal School Code: **001328**.

- ☐ Meet eligibility criteria based on HRSA guidelines and definitions for economically, educationally, and environmentally disadvantaged backgrounds (please see below [Economic Disadvantage – 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines](https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-20-006)) and <https://www.hrsa.gov/grants/find-funding/hrsa-20-006> (Details on pages 4-7 of the HRSA-20-006).
 - Economic Disadvantage: Family income below federal poverty guidelines, as determined by FAFSA data and tax returns. ** Please refer to the chart at the end of this document for 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines.*
 - Educational Disadvantage: Graduation from low performing high school,
 - Environmental Disadvantage: For example, but not limited to: first generation college student, history of poverty, illness, single parent status, history of foster care, experiencing homelessness, history of substance dependence and recovery, or other life circumstances.
 - Tax Returns/Evidence of Dependency Status - Please be prepared to provide copies of *Federal Tax Return form 1040 for the past three years (tax years 2021, 2022 & 2023)* 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 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.*)
- ☐ Submit a valid state-issued photo identification, passport, or birth certificate.
- ☐ Graduate in spring or summer 2025.

Requirements:

- ☐ Sign the PCP Student Commitment Form confirming understanding of all program qualifications and requirements.
- ☐ Intern in a primary care/integrated behavioral health setting approved to be part of this project.
- ☐ Attend a mandatory virtual orientation during the summer in mid-August 2024 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 or better GPA).
- ☐ 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 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.
- ☐ Complete all required information necessary for accurate reporting and project documentation for HRSA including mid and final year student's surveys.
- ☐ Report post-graduate employment information to the program quarterly for one year, as requested.

For initial scholarship inquiry, If you have questions, 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 5 2024-2025 applications will be accepted between January 8, 2024 and May 3, 2024. Please note, applications submitted by **March 8th** will have priority consideration. While applications are due on **May 3rd**, the selection process includes accepting students who best fit the criteria and requirements of the scholarship program and may therefore extend throughout the summer.

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 determined to meet basic eligibility criteria will move forward to Step 2.

Step 2: Applicants will be required to submit responses to the following four essay questions on interest and commitment to work in a primary care setting (direct practice site) 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 are required to submit all supporting documents as requested. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

AY 2024-2025 Award letter will be sent to PCP scholarship recipients summer of 2024. Questions regarding the HRSA application status can be sent to Dr. Suh Chen Hsiao, Workforce Development Stipend/Scholarship Programs, via shuhsiao@usc.edu . Applicants will receive notice of award by email summer 2024.

| 2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | |
|---|-------------------|
| Persons in family/household | Poverty guideline |
| 1 | \$14,580 |
| 2 | \$19,720 |
| 3 | \$24,860 |
| 4 | \$30,000 |
| 5 | \$35,140 |
| 6 | \$40,280 |
| 7 | \$45,420 |
| 8 | \$50,560 |
| For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$5,140 for each additional person. | |

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