

September 1, 2004

Dear Potential MFP Fellow:

Thank you for your interest in the Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Competition for 2004. Through the MFP, the American Sociological Association (ASA) supports the development and training of minority sociologists in research on mental illness and related co-morbidities (i.e., alcohol abuse or drug abuse) with a grant from the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH). Pending ASA's receipt of NIMH funding, six to eight fellowships are awarded annually to students that conduct studies in the area of mental illness. One additional fellowship is awarded yearly to a student or who does not have a mental illness focus. This ASA fellowship is funded by generous contributions from various sister organizations and members.

The MFP is primarily intended for minority students who are applying to (or have been accepted into) a doctoral program in sociology and who have a strong interest and commitment to the sociology of mental health. The program also considers graduate students in sociology who are in the early stages of their graduate programs. The annual stipend for NIMH fellows for 12 months of support is \$20,772, and the annual stipend for the non-NIMH is \$15,000. Assuming that a Fellow is making productive and steady progress, and there are funds available, financial support may be extended for up to three years.

Enclosed, please find the complete application package containing the required materials for the completion and submission of the application, as well as general and detailed information regarding the MFP. As part of the application packet, we encourage you to visit the National Institute of Mental Health Extramural Research Support Program and Contacts website (http://www.nimh.nih.gov/grants/program_contact.cfm) and read this important material.

The MFP program has been in existence for nearly 31 years and former fellows have made many important contributions to the sociology of mental health and to the discipline. Those individuals selected as MFP Fellows are part of a great and important ASA tradition. We look forward to reviewing your application and hopefully to welcoming you into the MFP family.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Rubio, PhD
Director
Minority Affairs Program

Enclosures

**American Sociological Association
Minority Fellowship Program
General Application Guidelines**

Introduction

The Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) is primarily intended for minority students who are applying or have been accepted into **doctoral programs in sociology** and have strong research interests and commitment to the sociology of mental illness or related co-morbidities such as drug and alcohol abuse. The MFP is funded by a research-training grant to the American Sociological Association from the Division of Epidemiology and Services Research Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). Pending funding 6-8 fellowships with a mental illness are awarded annually.

In addition to the NIMH supported fellowships, one ASA fellowship will be awarded to minority students whose research interests are outside the sociology of mental illness (General Sociology Fellowship). For these fellowships, no specific specialty area is stipulated.

General Guidelines

The following guidelines are **extremely important**. Please read them carefully.

1. MFP applicants can be new or continuing graduate students. However, the MFP is primarily designed for minority students entering a doctoral program in sociology for the first time or for those who are in the early stages of their graduate programs.
2. MFP Fellows are selected on the basis of their commitment to research in mental illness (for NIMH applicants), academic achievement, scholarship, writing ability, research potential, financial need, and racial/ethnic minority background.
3. MFP-NIMH applicants must be applying to or enrolled in sociology departments that have strong mental illness research programs and/or faculty who are currently engaged in research focusing on mental illness or related co-morbidities. This must be reflected in your application package.
4. Letters of recommendation should be written by individuals who are familiar with your academic work, scholarship, writing ability, research interests, research potential, and commitment to the sociology of mental illness (for NIMH applicants). The individuals writing your letters of recommendation should return them to you in a **sealed envelope** to be **INCLUDED IN YOUR** application package.