

**ELIGIBILITY**

1. **QUESTION:** My university has the doctoral and master’s-level programs for school psychologists and the master’s-level program for school counseling? Are these programs eligible for this funding?

*ANSWER: Yes, these programs are eligible as long as they meet the requirements for clinical practice as described in the Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).*

2. **QUESTION:** Our nursing Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurse Practitioner (NP) program is now a Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. Are students eligible for the stipends under this program?

*Answer: No, the DNP programs in Psychiatric-Mental Health are not eligible for this program.*

3. **QUESTION:** Our university has a COAMFTE accredited marriage and family therapy training program and a CACREP accredited mental health counseling/substance abuse counseling program. Can our two programs apply together for the grant?

*ANSWER: No. Only one discipline per application is allowed. Up to two applications per institution may be submitted. Applicants may collaborate with other eligible disciplines or programs. However, stipend support is discipline specific and may only be provided to trainees within the one applicant program.*

4. **QUESTION:** Are Community Mental Health Centers and Community Health Centers eligible if they provide training for pre-doctoral psychology interns or do we have to be an institute of higher education? What about a collaborative grant with a graduate school?

*ANSWER: Community Mental Health Centers and Health Centers are eligible applicants when they are 501c nonprofit organizations with American Psychological Association (APA) accredited internship programs for pre-doctoral psychology interns. With the APA accredited internships, stipend support can only be provided to pre-degree psychology level interns in APA accredited doctoral internship programs. Collaborative grants are eligible.*

5. **QUESTION:** We are currently funded under the FY 2012 Mental and Behavioral Health Training Program with an end project date of September 2015. Is our program eligible to apply for the FY 2014 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals FOA?

*ANSWER: Yes, current MBHET grantees that meet the eligibility requirements for this new program are eligible applicants.*

**HRSA-14-077 – Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals  
Technical Assistance Calls – April 09 and 24, 2014 – Questions and Answers**

- 6. QUESTION: Are you accepting applications to develop an internship program that is based on and integrates the national APA-accreditation standards and will seek to be accredited within the first two years of its development? What about nursing programs that are being developed?**

*ANSWER: Programs in development, including internships and master's-level nursing programs, with plans to become accredited are not eligible. Funds cannot be used to off-set the cost of developing programs. Applicants must be able to provide a copy of their accreditation letter as an attachment when submitting their applications on or before the June 3, 2014 application submission due date.*

- 7. QUESTION: Our post-doctoral program in clinical psychology trains PsyD students with a focus on serving the underserved. We have a specialty track in child and school psychology. Some of our students take electives in child psychology, as well as, do internships and externships with children. Is this grant more geared toward psychology internships than psychology doctoral programs?**

*ANSWER: Post-doctoral psychology programs are ineligible. Pre-doctoral psychology internship programs are eligible to apply under this FOA.*

- 8. \*QUESTION: There is mention of psychiatric mental health nurse practitioners, but no mention of physician assistant (PA) program eligibility, although both often function in similar capacities. Are PA programs that certify in behavioral health eligible applicants?**

*\*ANSWER: PA Programs are not eligible for this funding opportunity.*

**STIPEND SUPPORT**

- 1. QUESTION: If the internship is an APA-accredited, professional psychology program in a clinical setting, who receives stipends?**

*ANSWER: Only the students enrolled in the pre-doctoral level internships are eligible to receive stipend support.*

- 2. QUESTION: In Year 1 of the award, is it allowable to support XX students and in Year 2 take in more students?**

*ANSWER: Yes, as long as they are in the same discipline.*

**INTERNSHIPS AND FIELD PLACEMENTS**

1. **QUESTION:** Our master's-level counseling psychology program is accredited. Are field placements or just internships required to be accredited?

**ANSWER:** *Field placements and internships for master's-level schools/program are not required to be accredited. However, doctoral-level internships must be accredited by APA.*

2. **QUESTION:** Reviewer Criterion #7 refers to a "plan that integrates behavioral health into primary care practice." Does this mean that we must have internship placements in primary care practices or are placements in mental health centers or residential facilities that coordinate with primary health care providers considered as eligible internship placements?

**ANSWER:** *Internships do not have to be in primary care practices, but they must be in settings that include multiple disciplines from a patient-centered perspective. All internships need to focus on working with at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth, and involve experiential training that offers participation in established interprofessional and integrated teams. Coordination, collaboration or co-location with primary care must be clearly demonstrated.*

3. **QUESTION:** Are the established interprofessional teams with one or more student disciplines or with one or more professional disciplines?

**ANSWER:** *Either or both.*

4. **QUESTION:** As a part of our APA-approved Ph.D. in clinical psychology, students must complete clinical practicum hours prior to the doctoral internship. We are setting up an outpatient child and family practicum site to serve underserved families. Our reading of this grant is that it is for APA-approved doctoral internships and master's-level programs in psychology (and other health services) for practicums or internships (APA-approved internships in psychology). A year of practicum (clinical experience) is required in doctoral programs. Will this grant fund the year of practicum required in our program?

**ANSWER:** *At the doctoral level in psychology, stipend support can only be provided to students enrolled in an APA accredited internship. Funding cannot be used to provide stipend support to doctoral-level students in their practicum.*

5. **\*QUESTION:** Do you have a definition of integrated primary care settings?

*\*ANSWER: Internships and field placements need to focus on working with at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth and their families in an integrated primary care setting. These placements must involve experiential training that offers participation in established interprofessional and integrated teams. Please visit <http://www.integration.samhsa.gov/about-us/what-is-integrated-care> to learn more about various models of integrated care.*

6. **\*QUESTION:** On page 4, experiential training refers to 6 – 12 months of supervised experience in health care settings. Is this negotiable with a justification?

*\*ANSWER: A minimum of six months of the training must be in an integrated primary care behavioral health care setting.*

7. **\*QUESTION:** Please explain more about what is meant by doctoral schools/programs collaborating on education and training and in the Match process?

*\*ANSWER: APA accredited doctoral psychology schools and programs in health psychology (clinical, counseling and school) are eligible to apply for this funding to support students during their doctoral internships. They must partner with one or more internship sites. In one innovative model, students from the APA accredited doctoral psychology school/program may apply for these internship slots, but their placements are dependent on the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC) match. Without regard for the location of doctoral students who will match with the related internship positions, the university pays the interns or subcontracts with the internship agency to pay the students. Through this model, the doctoral psychology schools/programs are connected to one or more internship sites, encouraging close collaboration between the didactic and practice-based experiences. They would also play a role in increasing the number of internship slots for psychology students, which is also a goal of this program.*

### **ACCREDITATION**

1. **QUESTION:** The FOA states that the clinical psychology internship must be accredited. As a relatively new internship we are not yet eligible for APA-accreditation (though we are working toward it). We are APPIC members, one of the major bodies that regulates internships. Would that qualify us to apply or is APA accreditation mandatory?

*ANSWER: No, Internship programs must be accredited by APA at the time that the application is submitted.*

**HRSA-14-077 – Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals  
Technical Assistance Calls – April 09 and 24, 2014 – Questions and Answers**

2. **QUESTION:** We anticipate accreditation by September 2014. Is this pending accreditation acceptable?

*ANSWER: No. Applicants must provide a copy of their accreditation letters as an attachment with the application package.*

3. **\*QUESTION:** We have a MS program in Mental Health Counseling that is not accredited by a MPCAC or CACREP, but the university has HLC accreditation, recognized by CHEA. Is this program eligible?

*\*ANSWER: The mental health counseling program must have its separate program accreditation. It cannot fall under the umbrella of the university's overall accreditation. Verification of this program accreditation must be included in the application package as attachment 6.*

4. **\*\*QUESTION:** I'm not sure whether my program meets the expectation for accreditation per the funding opportunity announcement? I noticed that the eligibility section of the FOA mentions various accrediting bodies, but what if our program is accredited by a different accrediting body than what is listed.

**\*\*ANSWER:** Under the Eligibility Information in the funding announcement, for the master's-level psychology, marriage and family therapy, professional counseling programs and other related clinical behavioral health programs, we provide examples of acceptable program accreditation. However, these are just a few of the potential accrediting bodies, and other accrediting bodies for your behavioral health program may be acceptable. **Note: The specific behavioral health school/program must be accredited and not just the University.**

The main accrediting bodies recognized by discipline are:

- Doctoral psychology schools/programs and internships: American Psychological Association (APA);
- Social work schools/programs: Council on Social Work Education (CSWE);
- Professional counseling schools/programs: Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP);
- Marriage and Family Therapy schools/programs: Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE);
- School psychology schools/programs: National Association of School Psychology (NASP); and
- Psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner schools/programs: American Association of Colleges in Nursing (AACN), Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) formerly the National League for Nursing-Accreditation Commission (NLNAC).

**BUDGET**

1. **\*\*QUESTION:** Can the budget include indirect costs on the 70% stipend amount?

**\*\*ANSWER:** Yes, HRSA will pay 8% indirect costs on allowable budget items, including stipends, with the indirect costs being included in the 30% of the budget that is not for stipends.

2. **QUESTION:** With the 70/30 percent distribution in the awards, can the 30 percent portion be used to fund a position such as an adjunct instructor teaching a course or a program coordinator?

**ANSWER:** Yes, the remaining 30 percent may be used towards any of the budget categories listed on the SF 424 R&R form. This includes key personnel.

3. **\*QUESTION:** How should grantees use the stipend funds allocated in Year-1 when trainees recruited for the program will not start until Jul 1, 2015? There was mention of obligating funds. Does this mean that a grantee can obligate funds in one budget period to use in a future budget period?

**\*ANSWER:** Trainees can be appointed at any time during a budget period for an entire 9-month or 12-month period. In doing so, the entire 12-month stipend is charged to the current year. Thus, an appointment period can technically overlap into the next budget period. Since the entire 12-months stipend is charged at the time of the appointment, that amount committed but not yet expended at the end of the budget period should be reported as an unliquidated obligation on the Federal Financial Report.

4. **\*\*QUESTION:** No less than 70 percent of a grantee's overall requested budget (direct costs only) must be dedicated and distributed as stipends to students in field placement or internships of \$10,000 per master's-level student per year. Because our students are placed in academic-year internships (i.e., 9 months), do we then budget \$7,500 per student?

**\*\*ANSWER:** At least 70 percent of the total funds requested, including indirect costs must be used for stipends. The stipends of \$10,000 should be used to cover the field placement of 9 or 12 months depending on the program type. It is not necessary to prorate the stipend as long the field placements cover the entire academic year.

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

1. **\*QUESTION:** In the FOA, there is a link for the required performance measures for this program at <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/grants/reporting/index.html>. However, I could not locate them.

**\*ANSWER:** The performance measures are provided during the orientation session for the successful applicants. The link provided does not have these details at this time.

**GENERAL QUESTIONS**

1. **QUESTION: Can an application have more than one Program Director/Program Investigator?**

*ANSWER: HRSA only recognizes one Program Director/Program Investigator. However, applicants are free to identify several key personnel within their proposal.*

2. **QUESTION: We are only beginning and don't foresee admitting students till Fall 2016. Do you have a sense of how long this funding will be available?**

*ANSWER: This funding is projected for a three-year project period for existing programs, effective fiscal years 2014 - 2016. Subsequent years of funding are based on the availability of appropriated funds.*

3. **QUESTION: In the "Needs Assessment," is drawing information from publicly available resources sufficient?**

*ANSWER: Yes, any local, available data or new data via survey are useful.*

4. **\*QUESTION: Attachment #9 references a commitment letter, but I could not locate it.**

*\*ANSWER: Applicants must develop and provide a copy of a student commitment letter prototype with elements that include: a student's commitment to complete the field placement or internship; plans to pursue a career working with children, adolescents, and/or transitional age youth at-risk for developing or who have developed a recognized behavioral health disorder; and any consequence for failure to keep this commitment after receiving the agreed upon stipend. This letter should be included in the application package as Attachment 9.*

5. **\*QUESTION: Is there going to be a Graduate Psychology Education (GPE) announcement in addition to this Behavioral Health Workforce announcement?**

*\*ANSWER: No GPE Program funding announcement is anticipated for fiscal year 2014.*

6. **\*QUESTION: Is there a funding preference? What is the value in two different universities collaborating since students are only accepted from one of the two universities? What is the value other than the funded school could share any newly developed internships and field placements?**

*\*ANSWER: There is no funding preference associated with this program. The value of collaborating may result in expanding and sharing internships and/or field placements.*

**HRSA-14-077 – Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training for Professionals  
Technical Assistance Calls – April 09 and 24, 2014 – Questions and Answers**

7. **\*QUESTION:** Is it preferable to organize the narrative according to the seven criterion or based on the grants initial description of required items?

**\*ANSWER:** *Please refer to the **Program Narrative** section in the FOA as the guide to organizing your application. It is located within Section IV.2.ii, which begins on page 8 of the document. Organizational uniformity will assist with the objective review of the applications.*