

**NC State School of Social Work
HRSA BHWET SCHOLARS Program
Information Session**



WELCOME!

NC STATE HRSA BHWET TEAM

- Director/PI: Dr. Sarah Ascienzo
- Coordinator: Professor Pam Wheeler
- Evaluator: Dr. Alan Ellis
- Recruiter: Dr. Kim Stansbury
- Director of Practicum Education: Dr. Stephanie Francis
- HRSA Research Assistant: Karsyn Forehand

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (HRSA)

- **Annual Budget:** \$13.3 Billion (2023)
- **Agency Executive:** Carole Johnson
- **Website:** www.hrsa.gov
- **Bureaus and Offices**
 - Bureau of Workforce Development
 - Bureau of Primary Health Care
 - Bureau of Healthcare Systems Bureau
 - HIV/AIDS Bureau
 - Maternal and Child Health Bureau
 - Office of Rural Health
 - Office of Global Health
 - Office of Health Equity
- HRSA is a federal agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Funds programs for medically underserved or vulnerable populations
- Supports high-quality training of health professionals
- HRSA oversees organ, bone marrow, and cord blood donations
- Compensates individuals harmed by vaccines
- Approx. 3000 grants awarded annually

Behavioral Health Workforce Education & Training (BHWET)

- BHWET program was developed to enhance and expand the behavioral health workforce
- Goals of BHWET:
 1. Increase the number of clinically prepared social workers
 2. Increase the number of racial/ethnic minorities in clinical social work
 3. Increase the number of clinical social workers that work in health professional shortage areas (HPSAs), medically underserved areas/medically underserved populations (MUA/MUPs), and/or rural areas

HPSAs and MUA/MUPs

- Federal government uses a classification system to designate geographical areas as:
 - 1. Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs)**
 - Mental Health
 - Primary Care
 - 2. Medically Underserved Areas/ Medically Underserved Populations (MUA/MUPs)**
 - 3. Rural Areas**
- Whether an agency is in a HPSA, MUA/MUP, or rural area is determined by the agency's address
 - Rural areas: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/rural-health>
 - HPSAs and MUA/MUPs: <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/by-address>
- A main goal of the HRSA BHWET program is to increase providers in these areas, and consequently practicum placements in these areas are desirable

Eligibility for HRSA BHWET Scholars Program

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Traditional 2-year MSW students entering their final year of the program AND advanced standing MSW students
- Students with an interest in behavioral health who are seeking a behavioral health-related practicum
- Students committed to working with medically underserved populations
- Citizens, national, or permanent residents of the United States

Who is NOT Eligible?

- Those unable to meet eligibility requirements
- Students who receive NC State graduate school funding, including scholarships, grants, or fellowships.
- Students who have previously received HRSA funding through another program.
- Students who receive other federal funding from HRSA or any other department of the federal government. However, please note this does NOT include Veteran's benefits or financial aid.

NC State School of Social Work HRSA BHWET Scholars Program

- HRSA BHWET Scholars receive \$10K stipend
 - It cannot be more or less
- Paid in 10 monthly installments of \$1000
- You can lose the money if you do not uphold requirements of the program
- Money is NOT a loan or scholarship
- Money is payment in exchange for specific activities, commitments, and behaviors.

NC State HRSA BHWET Scholars Program Requirements

- Must be a citizen, national, or permanent resident of the United States
- Must be full-time student in good academic standing
- Must be in final year of MSW program and be eligible to graduate during the academic year of funding
- Must enroll in direct deposit through “Student Self Service”
- Must submit demographic information to HRSA BHWET Evaluator
- Must provide post-graduation contact information
- Must respond to surveys sent by the HRSA BHWET Evaluator during the academic year and **3 years post-graduation**
- **Must commit to working with medically underserved populations upon graduation**

NC State HRSA BHWET Scholars Program Requirements

- HRSA BHWET Scholars must be enrolled in a HRSA-eligible practicum throughout the academic year and complete practicum hours
- HRSA BHWET Scholars must attend and participate in mandatory HRSA BHWET workshops, conferences, and educational events (at least monthly) throughout year
 - Typically held Monday and Tuesday mornings
 - Cover a range of topics, and are focused on clinical issues, assessment, and treatment
 - Attendance at these events is in addition to your coursework and practicum hours
- HRSA BHWET Scholars are all in the same field seminar class

Disclaimer

We understand that money may be a motivator, however, this should not be something you do solely because you need the stipend.

We are seeking students who are genuinely interested in behavioral health and working with underserved and marginalized populations.

We expect to receive over 75 applications for only 29 slots. There will be far more interest in the program than the number of slots we have. We wish we could fund every interested student.

Application Process

- **When planning your practicum, mention your interest in HRSA BHWET to Dr. Francis so that she can share information about eligible placements**
 - However, please note obtaining a clinical placement in a MUA/MUP, HPSA, or rural area does not automatically mean you will be selected
- Applications will be sent out via email in late April 2024 and posted on website: <https://socialwork.chass.ncsu.edu/students/hrsa-opportunities/>
- Complete application AFTER you know your practicum for AY24-25
 - On the application, you will enter your practicum site's address and look up whether it is in a HPSA, MUA/MUP, and/or rural area
 - You will answer a few questions asking you to describe why you want to be a HRSA BHWET Scholar, what you hope to get out of the program, and your career plans and goals.

Application Process

- In May 2024, screening of applications will begin, and a portion of applicants will be contacted for an interview
- Selected HRSA BHWET Scholars will be notified of their acceptance by July 31, 2024
 - Selected students will be asked to complete a Letter of Commitment to indicate they wish to participate in the program

Selection Process

- Selection based on a variety of factors
 - Meeting eligibility requirements
 - Responses to application questions
 - Commitment to pursuing behavioral health with underserved and marginalized populations
 - HRSA federal preferences/guidelines
 - Practicum site location and type

Selection Process

- Selection is highly contingent on your practicum placement type **and** location
- We are seeking students who will provide behavioral health services at practicum sites located in primary care HPSAs, mental health HPSAs, MUAs/MUPs, or rural areas
 - **Priority Preference** will be given to students whose practicum agency is in a HPSA, MUA/MUP, and/or rural area **and** involves providing behavioral health services to children and/or young adults through age 25 (and particularly trauma-focused services)
 - **Preference** will be given to students whose practicum agency is in a HPSA, MUP/MUA, and/or rural area **and**
 - Is in a criminal justice setting (including prisons)
 - Involves violence prevention
 - Involves working primarily with low-income clients
 - Is in an integrated healthcare setting
- *However, this is not the only criteria for selection and not having a practicum site in a HPSA, MUA/MUP, or rural area does not automatically mean you will not be selected*

Questions?

hrsa_grants@ncsu.edu

Thank you!