

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Society for Social Work and Research

2017 DOCTORAL FELLOWS AWARD

The Society for Social Work and Research established the *Doctoral Fellows Award* to recognize and support doctoral students whose proposed dissertation research reflects innovative ideas and rigorous methodologies related to social work research, policy, or practice. SSWR Doctoral Fellows will be considered exemplars of excellence in doctoral level social work research. Doctoral Fellows Award recipients will receive a **\$3,000 award**. Fellows may use the funds for expenses related to the completion of the dissertation such as data collection and preparation, data analysis, administrative costs, and the preparation of the final dissertation document. Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods or other approaches are welcome as long as they are appropriate to the study's goals.

Application Instructions: No later than **August 3, 2016**, nominators must first contact SSWR Awards Coordinator Amanda Leibert via e-mail at amanda@sswr.org to register (1) the name of the nominator, (2) contact information for the nominator, (3) the name of the student author, (4) contact information for the nominee, (5) the name of the major professor supervising the dissertation and (6) the name of the program and university from which the dissertation originated. The awards coordinator will assign a nominator number which is to be used on all nomination documents to ensure a blind review process. **Self-nominations are encouraged.**

Completed applications packages must be received by 5:00 pm, EDT, August 17, 2016. The August 3 and 17, 2016, deadlines will be firmly adhered to.

Eligibility Requirements: Applicants must be members of the Society for Social Work and Research and must have an approved dissertation proposal. *The SSWR Board has set a policy that no sitting member of the Board may apply for this award.* **Nominators may only nominate one nominee for this award.**

Application Process: All materials must be submitted electronically to Amanda Leibert at amanda@sswr.org. Only completed packages submitted by 5:00 pm EDT, August 17, 2016, will be reviewed.

Application Package:

1. Application ID Number Request (submitted by **August 3, 2016**)

To ensure a blind review process, all nominators/nominees must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Use your assigned ID number in place of all occurrences of your name, your actual name can only be shown on the Application ID Number Request i.e. If your assigned ID number is DOCF_2015_010, use that to identify yourself throughout items 2-5 rather than your actual name.

- **DO NOT** reference the actual name of your institution; You may only use generic, non-identifiable names such as “My University” or “XYZ University” when referring to your institution.
- Staff and Chair names may not be mentioned in items 2-5, they may only be referred to by their title i.e. Use ‘Department Chair’ instead of ‘Professor Smith’
- It is very important that applications **DO NOT** reveal any aspect of the applicant's identity, affiliation, or staff names. If you have any questions, please contact the SSWR office.

2. **Letter of Agreement** which is to include: (a) the proposed timeline for the completion of the dissertation (b) an affirmation by the applicant that every effort will be made to complete the dissertation in a timely manner, and (c) statement of project’s current IRB status.

3. A **brief synopsis** (no more than 5 pages, double spaced, 12 pt font) of the dissertation title, dissertation proposal and the study’s hypotheses/research questions, methodology (including design, sample size and sampling strategy, methods of data collection, and detailed data analysis plan) and the potential implications for social work research, practice, and/or policy.

4. Approved **dissertation** proposal; the length of the dissertation proposal is to adhere to the requirements of **your** institution.

Three paper dissertation model: If your institution uses the 3-paper model, you must clearly articulate the nominee’s contribution to each of the 3 papers. If an introductory chapter is included with the 3-paper model, it should be articulated why the nominee has chosen their set of research questions, their guiding theory/conceptual framework for arriving there, and how that relates to the three papers.

5. **Letter of support** from Doctoral Dissertation Chair/Primary Faculty Advisor addressing the candidate’s competence, likelihood of completion and potential contribution of the dissertation. This letter is to be sent electronically to Amanda Leibert at amanda@sswr.org and cannot contain any identifiable information about the applicant, their affiliation, or the author of the support letter i.e. Do not use letterhead, refer to the nominee by their ID number, and use your title only to sign the letter rather than your name.

Application Processing: The Doctoral Fellows Committee will review the applications and make recommendations of finalists to the SSWR Board who will select the awardees. Applicants will be notified about funding decisions on or about October 30, 2016, and a formal announcement of the awards will be made at the SSWR 2017 Conference.

Applications will be reviewed and rated on the following criteria:

- 1) Significance of problem being addressed
- 2) Appropriate use of theory and literature
- 3) Research design
- 4) Data Analysis
- 5) Attention to vulnerable or disadvantaged populations

