Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) Stipend Program for Professionals in the Clinical Mental Health Program at New Jersey City University
What is the purpose of the HRSA-BHWET stipend program?

- The purpose is to support a one-year, advanced training program during the final Internship courses (Internship I and II) for twelve diverse students (race, religion, ethnicity, gender, age, socioeconomic status, etc) in NJCU’s Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (CMHC).

- This will enable students to meet the increasing demand for behavioral health care services in underserved communities by training and graduating a diverse body of mental health professionals.
Who is the HRSA-BHWET stipend program team?

- Project Director: Dr. Vaibhavee Agaskar
- Assessment Coordinator: Dr. Yung-Wei Lin
- Mentoring Coordinator: Dr. Grace Wambu
- Clinical Coordinator: Mrs. Anna Ivanova-Tatlici
- Program Assistant: Ms. Samar Zahalan
- External Reviewer: Dr. Casey Barrio Minton
Who is eligible to apply for the stipend program?

- Current CMHC students who are in their final phase of the program i.e., students currently in Practicum or will be in the Practicum by the Spring 2017 semester and then will be in Internship I and II during the Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 semester.

- Are in good academic standing in the program i.e., GPA of 3.0 or higher.

- Please note only permanent resident students and U.S citizens are eligible to apply for the HRSA stipend.
What kind of field work site is accepted for this HRSA-BHWET program?

- A qualifying agency or field placement site must include:
  - Clinical work with at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth (16-25 years old) at risk of developing or who have developed a behavioral health disorder (mental health and/or substance abuse).
  - Provide inter-professional learning experiences (learning experiences among a group of individuals from two or more profession such as nursing, psychiatry, social work, psychology)

**Note:** Students may or may not have secured a field placement at the time of application submission or at the time of stipend interview. If students are awarded a stipend, they must accept a field placement at a qualifying agency and complete the Agency Verification form prior to receiving stipend funds.
How much is the stipend and when is the application due?

- Stipends are in the amount of $10,000. Students will be awarded $5,000 after successful completion of each Internship.
- Interested student may complete HRSA BHWET Stipend Application and submit it by 5:00 pm on Friday, March 17, 2017, to Mrs. Anna Ivanova-Tatlici.

Note: In all cases, stipends will only be available as long as grant funds are available. An award may be cancelled in its entirety or funds may be partially distributed with subsequent payments being cancelled if grant funds are withdrawn.
What is required to submit the application for HRSA-BHWET stipend program?

- Only **TYPED completed** applications will be accepted. Applications must include all of the following:
  - Application form.
  - 1 to 2 page **UPDATED** resume (including educational and work/volunteer experience, specifically in helping field).
  - Unofficial Transcript
  - Two recommendation forms completed by either an NJCU full time faculty members (excluding Drs. Agaskar, Lin, Wambu) or a Practicum Site Supervisor or an instructor.
    - Please ask them to send your recommendation letter directly to Mrs. Anna Ivanova-Tatlici, in a sealed envelope.
What is required to submit the application for HRSA-BHWET stipend program?

- A short essay (APA style, two pages; excluding title page and references):
  - detailing your interest in the stipend program,
  - a brief summary of your experiences, skills, passion, and strengths you would bring to the behavioral health field specifically working with diverse at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth,
  - addressing how your diversity (race, religion, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, etc) is shaping up or has influenced your current personal and professional identity
  - discuss your short and long term career goals and how this stipend program will help you to achieve your goals and your commitment to this program
What will happen once the student submits the application to the HRSA-BHWET stipend program?

- Applications will be reviewed by March 31, 2017, and you may be contacted for an in-person interview with the HRSA-BHWET Stipend Selection Committee. Interviews will be approximately 30-45 minutes each.

- If selected to move into the interview phase, you will be contacted by the department, Mrs. Norma Araujo, to schedule an interview in the preceding week. Please be mindful of these dates to ensure your availability. Interviews will be tentatively scheduled during the first two weeks of April 2017. The final schedule will be available soon.
What will happen after the student’s interview?

- Successful recipients of the HRSA BHWT grant will be notified by April 17, 2017.
  If you accept the stipend program then please complete the following documents before the Fall 2017 semester:
  - Agency Verification Form
  - Signed student commitment letter and Informed consent to participate in research

Congratulations!!!
What is the student’s obligation to receive $10,000?

Program participants’ need to be committed and fully invested in the HRSA BHWET grant:

- **Complete 600 hours of Internship I and II:** working with children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth (16 to 25 years old) at risk for developing or who have a recognized behavioral health disorder. Students will also submit their E-portfolio at the end of Internship II.

- **Advanced Training:** In Summer I and II 2017 semesters, students will complete coursework (3 credits) in “Evidence based practices for at risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth (16 to 25 years old). This course can serve as an elective course for CMHC students.

  Detailed schedule (dates and time) will be provided on your interview day. Some of the topics of Advanced Training are evidence-based practices for at-risk children, adolescents, and transitional-age youth and integrated behavioral health care. It is a special course so some of the coursework will be on weekend.
What is the student’s obligation to receive $10,000 continued......?

- **Mentorship program:** Through this mentorship group program participants will meet once a month during Internship I and II and the mentor will initiate discussions on various topics such as ethical issues, professional identity, etc.

  - Program participants are also required to participate in the Annual CSI induction ceremony, April 2018 (date to be provided later) and reflect on the program’s benefits and challenges.

  - Program participants will be paired with a new mentee from a diverse ethnic and racial background who is ready to start their Practicum. They are expected to continue mentoring new mentee till their mentee graduates from the program.
What is the student’s obligation to receive $10,000 continued……?

- **Community Engagement and Services:** The project team will train the program participants in outreach work such as creating awareness of mental health needs among parents during September 2017 to December 2017 and in the following year, February 2018 to April 2018, the program participants will conduct parenting workshops. During this time frame we will try to offer at least one workshop in the regional language.

- **Conference Presentation:** Out of 12, four program participants will be selected to present or disseminate information on the HRDA BHWET program at a regional or national professional counseling conference. Each selected program participant for the conference presentation will receive up to a maximum of $1,000 for airline travel, hotel accommodation, and conference registration.

- **Lastly,** The Project Director will follow-up with the program participants via survey for two years after their graduation.
Who is the contact person?

- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Vaibhavee Agaskar by email at vagaskar@njcu.edu or 201-200-3400.