



COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

STRENGTHENING THE PROFESSION OF SOCIAL WORK

Leadership in Research, Career Advancement, and Education

1725 Duke Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314-3457 TEL 703.683.8080 FAX 703.683.8099 www.cswe.org

OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: February 26, 2009

To: Applicants for Underrepresented Mental Health Research Fellowship Program (UMHRFP)

From: Julia Watkins, executive director, Council on Social Work Education
Jenny Jones, director, Minority Fellowship Program

Re: National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Minority Fellowship Program

It is with regret that we write to inform you of the decision of the NIMH Under-Represented Mental Health Research Fellowship Training Program to discontinue funding fellowships through associations, such as CSWE, after June 30, 2010. This decision is based on the November 2008 report of the National Advisory Mental Health Council Workgroup on Research Training. In its recommendations, the Workgroup specifically recommended that NIMH work to improve diversity recruitment and retention efforts in all of its research training programs and that the management of T32 programs be shifted from professional associations to academic institutions. This latter recommendation will be implemented by NIMH with 2010 awards.

At this time, we are not aware of how NIMH plans to move the program to the universities, but however that is mapped out, we will do everything possible to facilitate a smooth transition so as not to disadvantage the social work component of the program and our long-standing commitment to diversity in the research workforce.

As we learn of future developments from NIMH, we will make that information available on the CSWE Web site. Please note, this does not have any bearing on the Mental Health & Substance Abuse Fellowship Program (MHSAFP) which is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Should you have questions about this matter, please be in touch with Dr. Jenny Jones at jjones@cswe.org.