

DMH-UCLA Early Childhood Fellowship
Application for 2020-2021

Frequently Asked Questions

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply for the Fellowship?

The Fellowship is open to both professionals and paraprofessionals. To be eligible, applicants must be currently working with young children (aged 0 to 6 years) and/or their families. Fellows are expected to apply the knowledge and skills they are learning throughout the program, so you must have access to this population through direct service provision, supervision, training, consultation, administration, and/or advocacy work.

I don't have extensive experience working with young children. Should I still apply for the Fellowship?

Yes, if you have a strong interest in working with this population. We are looking for a group of Fellows with a diverse range of experiences. Our expectation is that some Fellows will have considerable experience working with young children and/or their families, whereas others may be relatively new to working with this population.

No one else from my agency is applying for this Fellowship. Should I still apply?

Although some preference will be given to applicants who are applying with other employees from their agency, an applicant with a strong interest in working with this population and clear goals for how this experience will enhance their work will still be competitive.

Is it a requirement to be working within Los Angeles County?

Yes, currently this Fellowship is only open to professionals or paraprofessionals working with young children and/or their families who reside within Los Angeles County.

Are only DMH employees eligible to participate in this Fellowship?

Applicants are not required to work for DMH, but must work with young children and/or families from underserved populations within Los Angeles County.

Program

How is this Fellowship different from other professional development programs that focus on early childhood?

There are a number of other excellent professional development programs that are similarly focused on early childhood. The DMH-UCLA Early Childhood Fellowship focuses on some topics that are broadly relevant to work in early childhood and other topics that are especially relevant to working with young children and families within Los Angeles County (for example, the impact of immigration policies and family separation on young children).

What kinds of topics are focused on in the Fellowship?

Examples of trainings from this past year include:

- *Strengthening Self-Regulation and School Readiness in Early Childhood:* Cybele Raver, Ph.D.
- *Foundational Principles for Fostering Cultural Safety in Early Childhood Intervention:* Sayida Peparah, PsyD
- *0-5 Neurodevelopment: Understanding Challenging Behaviors and Building Social-Emotional Capacities Through a Neuropsychological Lens:* Jess Bernal, LMFT
- *Understanding Reflective Practice for Personal and Professional Use:* Barbara Stroud, Ph.D.
- *Intervening to Enhance Early Brain and Behavioral Development:* Mary Dozier, Ph.D.
- *Young Children in the Aftermath of Immigration Enforcement:* Lisseth Rojas-Flores, Ph.D.
- *Occupational Therapy Through a Trauma Lens:* Briana Pollard, OTD, OTR/L
- *Father Involvement During Early Childhood:* Alan Michael Graves, EdD
- *Parental Embodied Mentalizing Assessment:* Bronwyn Talbot, LMFT
- *Promoting First Relationships:* Carol Good, LCSW

Are there any requirements for a commitment after completing the Fellowship?

There are no formal requirements for a commitment upon completion of the Fellowship. However, there is an expectation that Fellows will be applying the knowledge and skills they are learning within their own professional settings during and following completion of the Fellowship. The program is structured to provide multiple opportunities to support Fellows' efforts to implement newly learned practices, including small collaborative learning groups, reflective practice groups, culminating projects, professional well-being activities, and an online learning community.

Are Continuing Education (CE) credits provided as part of this Fellowship?

UCLA Division of Population Behavioral Health is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Those who typically request CE credits include licensed psychologists, social workers, and marriage and family therapists. UCLA Division of Population Behavioral Health maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Fellows will receive CEs for the sessions they attend in full and for which they complete an evaluation. Late arrivals and early departures will impact Fellows' ability to receive CEs.

Is their work that Fellows must complete outside of the in-person sessions?

Yes, there is some work required outside of the Friday-Saturday sessions. Please note that the following times are estimates: pre-reading: 1.5 hrs/month; written assignments: .25-.75 hrs/month; preparation to facilitate collaborative learning group: 2.5 hrs/once per Fellowship; culminating project: 6-8 hrs total during the Fellowship.

Can my participation in the Fellowship count towards endorsement through the California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health?

Many of the trainings in the Fellowship address competencies identified by the Center as part of their endorsement criteria. However, as this is a new Fellowship, it is not yet clear if/what Fellowship trainings will be approved in their review process.

Details and Logistics

How long is the Fellowship?

The Fellowship runs from late September through early June. Please note that adjustments to this schedule may be necessary depending on circumstances related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

When are the in-person sessions?

The sessions occur one Friday/Saturday session per month. Friday sessions typically run from 9:00 am – 5:30 pm and Saturday sessions typically run from 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, but exact ending times may vary slightly depending on the particular presentation. Fellows will receive advance notice of any changes to the ending time for a particular session.

How much does it cost to participate in the Fellowship?

The program is free to Fellows accepted into the program, as participation is subsidized by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health. Fellows are generally responsible for their own transportation-related costs. Parking on campus is approximately \$13 day if Fellows opt to drive to campus.