

Culturally Responsive Leaders: A Child Welfare Traineeship Grant

Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services
School of Social Work, Portland State University

Information and Application Packet for the 2012-13 academic year

The Culturally Responsive Leaders Traineeship creates a specialized MSW pathway for culturally responsive leaders, or emerging leaders, which supports public, tribal, and community-based child welfare systems. MSW students selected for the program receive financial support (\$11,000.00 per year) as well as an enhanced leadership curriculum and field placement experiences which support persons with cultural experience and expertise in the development of leadership skills for child welfare settings.

Preferred candidates will be persons from diverse backgrounds, will have work experience in the child welfare system (public, tribal or community-based agencies); will be serving in a leadership position or identified as an emerging leader by a tribal, public, or contract child welfare agency; and will be committed to using their experiences and skills for the promotion and development of culturally responsive child welfare services.

If chosen as a Trainee, the student will be expected to:

- Participate in the School of Social Work Administration and Leadership (SSAL) track.
- Participate in at least three Traineeship-specific colloquia each year designed to address issues regarding culturally responsive leadership competencies in child welfare.
- Develop and submit a leadership portfolio.
- Monthly seminar participation.
- Participate in a national evaluation that consists of a yearly on-line survey, communication of post-graduation employment placement information, and (for some) an interview with national evaluators.
- Work in the field of child welfare* upon graduation.

The program also offers voluntary opportunities, such as participation in an on-line network with students at schools of social work nationwide.

Qualifying agencies include the public child welfare system, tribal child welfare systems, or private agencies providing contracted services to public or tribal child welfare agencies. Students will sign an agreement to maintain this employment for one year for each academic year that financial support. However, the vision of this program is to support long term leaders committed to making a lifetime difference in the system.

Awards are contingent upon admission into Portland State University **and** Portland State University's School of Social Work. To apply, submit an application form. Final candidates will be interviewed and trainees selected from that group.

This project is funded through a grant from the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute, funded by cooperative agreement with the U.S. Children's Bureau)

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE LEADERS: A Child Welfare Traineeship Application for Support: 2012-13 Academic Year

Please complete and return the following application materials:

1. Completed "Application for Support: 2012-13 Academic Year."
2. Personal Statement responding to all of the three following questions:
 - 1) Please describe your experiences and interest in child welfare services, and how this traineeship would further your career goals.

 - 2) What experiences have you had as a leader, or what positions have you held in management and leadership in child welfare? If you have not worked in child welfare, tell us about other leadership and management experiences you have had and their application to child welfare systems.

 - 3) What do you see as the key issues of cultural responsiveness in child welfare services? What does being a "Culturally Responsive Leader" in child welfare mean to you?
3. One copy of your resume.
4. Three letters of reference.

References should be provided by persons who can speak directly to your experience in child welfare and your demonstrated skills in leadership and/or your potential as an emerging leader regarding cultural responsiveness in child welfare. If you are currently employed by a public child welfare agency, tribal child welfare system, or a community-based agency serving child welfare clients, at least one of your references should include your supervisor.

Please include the letters of references with your application. Please note that references may be contacted directly for additional information.

5. Signed "Release of Information Consent" to allow members of the Traineeship Selection Committee to review your application.

Please note: all materials must be submitted together as a packet.

Applications must be POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN February 1st, 2012

Please mail or hand deliver all materials to:

Laurie Leasure, Culturally Responsive Leaders Project
Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services
Portland State University
1600 SW 4th Avenue, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97201

Please contact Laurie Leasure, Program Assistant, to discuss exceptions to the application due date. She can be reached at 503.725.8284 or lleasure@pdx.edu.

CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE LEADERS IN CHILD WELFARE
Application for Support: 2012-13 Academic Year

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____
Home Address: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
E-mail: _____ Email (2): _____

I am applying for the Culturally Responsive Leaders in Child Welfare traineeship funding for Fall 2012 and will begin my:

First Second Third year of the MSW program.

Program of study:

Two-year Three-year MSW Distance Option (site: _____) Advanced Standing

Work:

Current Employer: _____
Business Address: _____
Business Phone: _____ Business Fax: _____
Position/Job Title: _____ Circle one: Full time Part Time Other: _____
Supervisor: _____ Supervisor Phone #: _____

THESE QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL

You are encouraged to supply the following information but may decline without prejudicing your application. We use the following information for research and program evaluation purposes. **Please check all that apply.** Thank you.

Gender: Female ___ Male ___ Other ___

Multi Ethnic Origin:

- ___ 1. Asian/Pacific Islander
- ___ 2. Black, Non-Hispanic
- ___ 3. Hispanic
- ___ 4. Native American (American Indian, Alaskan Native)
 Tribal Affiliation: _____
- ___ 5. White, Non-Hispanic
- ___ 6. Other (please specify) _____

Country of Citizenship _____

Attachments:

- ___ Personal Statement responding to all 3 questions
- ___ Copy of resume
- ___ Three letters of reference
- ___ Consent to review your School of Social Work file and/or application

I understand continuation of this program is contingent upon future funding.

Applicant Signature

Date

Portland State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. Please notify us if you require accommodation.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION CONSENT

I agree to allow members of the Portland State University, School of Social Work Traineeship Selection Committee to have access to my student/application file at the School of Social Work. I understand these materials may be reviewed by the committee to assist them in evaluating my application for educational assistance through the Culturally Responsive Leaders in Child Welfare Traineeship.

Name (please print): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please return with your application packet. If you have questions or concerns regarding this release, please contact Laurie Leasure, Program Assistant at 503.725.8284 or lleasure@pdx.edu.