

National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families

Hispanic Center Research Scholars Program FAQs

Updated on 3/19/2020

1. What is expected of me as a Hispanic Center Research Scholar?

The Research Scholar will:

- Work remotely on one of the Hispanic Center’s current research projects within one of the four research priority areas— (1) fatherhood, family structure, and family dynamics, (2) early care and education, (3) poverty reduction and self-sufficiency, and (4) cross-cutting topics.
- Meet with their mentor by phone or videoconference call to develop their **Initial Work Plan** and will then present their proposed work plan to the Hispanic Center Steering Committee at the beginning of the Research Scholars program. Scholars also will submit a **Progress Report** at the mid-point of their project period, and a **Final Report** at the end, summarizing their experience and documenting the completion of any specific reports, briefs, or other products proposed in the Initial Work Plan.
- As appropriate, contribute to other building capacity and/or research products or activities that are part of the Center’s work plan. For example, Scholars will be able to contribute to the development of webinars, interactive data tools, Hispanic Family Facts, data training events, etc.
- Participate by phone in the biweekly Center Steering Committee meetings.
- Be encouraged to submit their work to one or more professional conferences, such as the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Child Care and Early Education Policy Research Consortium (CCEPRC), Society for Research on Child Development (SRCD), National Research Conference on Early Childhood (NRCEC), Population Association of America (PAA), National Council on Family Relations (NCFR) or Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency (RECS).
- Participate in webinars and work with Center staff on a range of other Center-related projects, including research projects, publications, and social media outreach.

2. What do I gain from participating in the Hispanic Center Research Scholars Program?

- Scholars will be matched with one of the Center’s Priority Area leads who will serve as a mentor. This mentor will work with the Scholar to identify the scope of the work/project to be completed by the Scholar during the program. The mentor and Scholar will meet weekly by phone or videoconference call to discuss tasks and progress toward accomplishing project goals.

- The Hispanic Center Research Scholar will be integrated into the biweekly Steering Committee calls of the Hispanic Center. During these calls, investigators from the priority areas share progress on their ongoing studies and studies in development. Participating in these calls will allow scholars to:
 - learn about the research being conducted across the Hispanic Center,
 - experience how investigators across different institutions engage in productive and effective collaborations,
 - learn about the Administration for Children and Families' programmatic priorities and how cooperative agreements work,
 - provide feedback on the design and development of studies in other program areas, and
 - receive feedback on their work from the Center's Steering Committee.
- The Center will actively facilitate the Scholars' connections to other emerging scholars (including those from prior cohorts of Research Scholars), researchers in the field, key organizations, and Federal agencies that may be of interest to the Scholars' longer-term professional development.
- Scholars participate in a series of professional development activities to help advance their careers and professional development goals (e.g., training in writing in accessible language).
- In addition, Scholars will receive support from other Center staff, as appropriate, to further support their overall professional development goals.

3. What outcomes or deliverables am I expected to complete by the end of the fellowship?

It is expected that the Hispanic Center Research Scholar will contribute significantly to an existing Hispanic Center project. This can be accomplished by conducting interviews, contributing to analyses, performing a literature review, or drafting sections of a product, as appropriate. Due to time restrictions, it is possible that the project will not have been finalized by the end of the program. We do expect the Scholar's contributions to result in a co-authored publication (e.g., brief, report, journal article). In certain cases, scholars may be able to lead a project that builds on existing work and serve as first author in a brief publication.

4. Where is the Hispanic Center Research Scholars program located?

The Hispanic Center Research Scholars program will be remote. The Scholar will have regular check-ins with their mentor and with the Center leadership via phone and videoconference calls. In addition, we will promote opportunities for in-person meetings during conferences and Hispanic Center mentoring events.

5. Is the start date of the program flexible?

The anticipated start date of the program is **September 8, 2020**. However, we recognize that academic schedules vary considerably from one university to another. As such, the specific dates of the program can be negotiated, as necessary, to match the selected applicants' academic institutional schedule, while still meeting the requirements of the Scholars Program.

6. I have other research projects and grants underway. Will it still be possible for me to continue work on them during the Hispanic Center Research Scholars program period?

The remote, part-time Hispanic Center Research Scholars program is expected to occur concurrently with other work. We estimate that the time commitment devoted to activities related to the Research Scholars Program will be approximately one day a week.

7. Is prior experience in the Hispanic Center’s research priority areas required?

Prior experience in the Hispanic Center’s research priority areas— (1) fatherhood, family structure, and family dynamics, (2) early care and education, (3) poverty reduction and self-sufficiency, and (4) cross-cutting topics—is not necessary. However, we do expect applicants to have an interest in pursuing research focused on Hispanics around these areas. One of the goals of the program is to expand the pool of scholars pursuing research in the Hispanic Center’s research priority areas.

8. What are “cross-cutting topics?”

Cross-cutting topics are those that examine the intersection of family economics, family structure, and early child care and education, and those that have implications across research and program priorities. The Center’s cross-cutting research area leverages the multi-disciplinary nature of our team to examine cross-cutting, emerging research issues related to the Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) programmatic priorities. Examples of topics included in this area are education, immigration, mental health, housing, and food insecurity.

9. Do I need to be a U.S. Citizen to apply for the Hispanic Center Research Scholars Program?

The position does not have citizenship requirements. However, all Scholars must be authorized to work in the United States and will be asked to complete USCIS Form I-9 on their first day.

10. Whom do I contact if I have additional questions about the Hispanic Center Research Scholars Program?

If you have any questions about submissions, please contact hispanicresearchscholars@childtrends.org, referencing the “**Hispanic Center Research Scholars Program**” in the subject line. The period for asking questions about the program has closed. No phone calls, please.

11. My recommenders prefer to send their letter directly to the Center; is that possible?

If the individuals providing the letters of recommendation prefer to share these directly, they can email them to hispanicresearchscholars@childtrends.org. If this is the case, please add to your submission a page indicating that letters will be sent directly to us and provide the names and contact information of the individuals providing the letters. Please make sure that the letters are submitted by the deadline.

12. The program is open to early career scholars (up to 5 years post Ph.D.)—what is the current cutoff year for graduating from a Ph.D. program for Research Scholar eligibility?

All eligible early career scholar applicants must have graduated from their doctoral programs no earlier than 2015.

13. Do you accept students obtaining other doctoral degrees (e.g., Ed.D.) in addition to Ph.D. students?

Yes, we do. Applicants should make sure that their personal statement and letters of recommendation speak to their research training.

14. Am I allowed to work a full-time job in addition to the Research Scholars program?

Yes. There is flexibility around *when* the research activities are completed during the week. However, it is the expectation that Scholars are able to join meetings with the Center’s Steering Committee (every other week), their mentor (weekly), and the program coordinator (every other month), as well as be able to join other professional development opportunities (1 hour each, about three times during the 12-month period).

15. I live outside the Washington, DC area. Will I need to move to participate in the program?

The program is remote, so there is no need to relocate. All the meetings are virtual, and the Scholar’s work is conducted from their home institution.

16. Can I propose original research instead of working on an existing project?

Scholars will work on an existing project within the Hispanic Center, rather than proposing an independent project. However, applicants may indicate in their applications which of the [current Hispanic Center research projects](#) is/are of most interest to them.

17. Can you clarify the eligibility requirement for advanced graduate students? Specifically, am I eligible if:

- I am already working on my dissertation?
- I will have completed all of my program’s requirement by the time the Emerging Scholars Program starts?
- I finished my dissertation, but I have yet to complete my practicum?

Yes. The ABD (All-But-Dissertation) status is a *minimum* eligibility requirement, and it is intended to indicate that while applicants should have completed their coursework and research requirements, we do not expect them to have written their dissertation. Applicants who are further along in their programs, or who are about to finish their program requirements, are eligible to apply.

18. I'm having difficulty securing my letters of recommendation from my references because of complications around the COVID-19 pandemic. What can I do? [NEW]

In consideration of individuals' needs surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, we've extended the deadline to apply for the Research Scholars Program until April 1, 2020 to provide two additional weeks for applicants to gather all of their materials. If you're still unable to secure your letters of recommendation by the new deadline, please include the names and contact information of your references in your application so that we can reach out as needed.