New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

2016 Mental Health Scholarship Program
One Year Residency (MHSP/OYR)
at the Silberman School of Social Work (SSSW) at Hunter College

DEADLINE FOR DOHMH MENTAL HEALTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:
Letter of Intent is due to mmendelson@health.nyc.gov
February 15, 2016

DEADLINE FOR SSSW AT HUNTER COLLEGE OYR PROGRAM:
Application is due to Hunter College SSSW
April 1, 2016

For scholarship information email:
Marlene Mendelson, LCSW at mmendelson@health.nyc.gov

INTRODUCTION:
The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of Mental Health and Bureau of Children, Youth and Families invite qualified individuals to apply for the Fall 2016 Mental Health Scholarship Program (MHSP). This program provides a unique opportunity for those employed in an agency program in contract with the DOHMH Bureau of Mental Health or Bureau of Children, Youth and Families to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College’s One Year Residency (OYR) Program. Successful applicants will receive full tuition scholarships. They will be required to continue working at their respective program during the course of the OYR program (2½ years). Individuals are also required to work an additional 2½ years post-graduation to fulfill the DOHMH requirement for full tuition (5 years in total).

PROGRAM GOAL:
The goal of the Mental Health Scholarship program is to contribute to New York City’s community mental health services system by increasing the pool of skilled professionals employed in community-based agencies serving adults and/or children with serious mental illnesses, including: veterans, underserved minorities, new immigrants, homeless individuals, people with co-occurring disorders, children in high risk groups, including children diagnosed with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, children under age 5, children involved with the foster care system, children with histories of trauma, and children living in poverty. Through provision of a professional social work education, the MHSP shapes mental health practitioners to work with the diverse population that makes up New York City. The objective is to provide a graduate social work education to employees working in community-based agencies whose programs are in contract with the NYC DOHMH’s Bureau of Mental Health or Bureau of Children, Youth and Families. This special program, which is tailored to these employees’ needs, includes tuition scholarships, intensive advisement and mentoring, writing support and seminars. The MHSP aims to graduate 20 students per year from the SSSW at Hunter College’s OYR program.
ELIGIBILITY:
The MHSP provides qualified applicants with the opportunity to pursue an MSW degree if an individual meets all of these requirements:

- Applicant must be a full-time employee in an agency program providing mental health services in contract with the Bureau of Mental Health or the Bureau of Children, Youth and Families. *(Individuals who work in programs that only have contracts with the Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Use Prevention, Care & Treatment or the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities are NOT ELIGIBLE for this scholarship.)*

- Applicant must meet SSSW at Hunter College’s admission standards and requirements for the OYR program.

- Applicant must have two years of full-time, post-baccalaureate social work experience in a social service institution.

- Applicant must be a legal resident of New York State.

- Applicant must be prepared to remain working at his/her current job for the duration of the MHSP/OYR (2½ years), **PLUS** remain in his/her job for 2½ years post-graduation (**5 years total**).

APPLICATION PROCESS:
Admission to the program is for the Fall semester only. Please refer to the SSSW at Hunter College website for information on the One-Year Residency Program:


Applicant must apply online at the SSSW at Hunter College website and select the “Mental Health Scholarship Program” as the program of study. You will be directed to the online DOHMH Letter of Intent. **STEP ONE:** Applicant must complete the DOHMH Letter of Intent form online (due February 15, 2016) and then email it back to DOHMH for approval. You must include your Agency Contract # on the Letter of Intent. Ask your supervisor how to find this number. **Applications will NOT be processed without this code.** If DOHMH approves you as eligible to apply for the MHSP, then your information will be sent to the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College’s Admissions Office and you will be contacted to complete and submit the online application for SSSW OYR Program (due April 1, 2016). Please do not submit payment for the application until you are notified. You should indicate “pay by check” when you submit the application. Do not submit the Hunter application to DOHMH.

**Application Review and Notification:** All eligible candidates will be selected from the standard application process for the SSSW at Hunter College. DOHMH will not provide further information about an applicant’s status until the review process is completed. Once a candidate is selected for scholarship, s/he will be notified via an award letter that will contain instructions for acceptance.

**Interviews:** Once applications have been submitted, qualified candidates may be contacted by the Office of Enrollment at SSSW at Hunter College for a group interview. Group interviews are conducted by members of the Mental Health Scholarship team. DOHMH representatives will also participate in the interviews.

Applicants who are not awarded the scholarship may still have the opportunity to apply to the regular Fall OYR Program. The admissions staff at SSSW at Hunter College will notify applicants if they are eligible for this option. **DOHMH and SSSW at Hunter College are committed to preserving the privacy rights of all applicants. We ask applicants not to call to request information about their candidacy.**