



Institute for
Research on
Poverty

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Call for Applications

2024–2026 Emerging Poverty Scholars Fellowship Call for Applications

Application Deadline: May 29, 2024 (11:59 p.m. Central Time)

Optional Webinar: February 29, 2024 from

3:00–3:30 p.m. Eastern | 2:00–2:30 p.m. Central | 1:00–1:30 p.m. Mountain | 12:00–12:30 p.m. Pacific

[Add to Calendar](#) (iCal file)

Posted: February 8, 2024

ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

The [Institute for Research on Poverty \(IRP\)](#) at the University of Wisconsin–Madison invites applications from junior scholars from underrepresented racial and ethnic populations for its 2024–2026 Emerging Poverty Scholars Fellowship program.

IRP’s Emerging Poverty Scholars Fellowship aims to support the career development and success of promising emerging poverty scholars from underrepresented racial and ethnic populations by:

- enhancing the resources available to them;
- providing high-quality one-on-one mentoring from nationally renowned senior poverty scholars;
- fostering interaction among a diverse set of scholars through quarterly meetings with the Emerging Scholars cohort and experts in the field; and
- providing opportunities to highlight the research of the Emerging Scholars through IRP products and events to broaden the corps of U.S.-based poverty researchers.

In addition, IRP uses this program to establish long-term relationships between fellows and other poverty scholars, which may lead to future collaborations.

ABOUT IRP

IRP is a center for interdisciplinary research into the causes and consequences of poverty and inequality in the United States and the impact of related policies and programs.

As the National Poverty Research Center on Poverty and Economic Mobility and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, IRP coordinates the [U.S. Collaborative of Poverty Centers \(CPC\)](#). IRP and its partner centers support and train poverty and economic mobility scholars with a special focus on expanding opportunities for scholars from historically underrepresented groups and provide relevant, cutting-edge research on a wide range of topics with the goal of improving the effectiveness of public policies to reduce poverty and its consequences.

TERMS

Eligibility

Proposals are invited from Ph.D.-holding poverty scholars from racial and ethnic groups that are underrepresented in academia.¹ Applicants must currently hold a tenure-track university appointment in any discipline or field but have not yet earned tenure. They must show evidence of research experience in areas relevant to poverty, low-income populations, or related social policy, as well as the potential to produce rigorous research to inform policies and programs to combat poverty and/or its effects.

Funding

Fellowships may be used for a wide range of professional development activities, including:

- engaging in substantive and methodological training;
- traveling for data collection, collaboration, or research presentation;
- funding research assistants;
- securing release time from teaching;
- summer salary support; and
- up to 15% in university indirect costs.

IRP will separately provide travel funding for fellows to attend three in-person meetings over the course of the fellowship as well as visit IRP, other institutions from the [U.S. Collaborative of Poverty Centers \(CPC\)](#), and/or their mentor's home institution once per year during the two-year funding period.

Award Info

IRP anticipates providing five fellows with \$60,000 in flexible funding over a two-year award period beginning in early fall 2024. IRP will match each fellow with a senior poverty scholar mentor for each year of their fellowship. Scholars will meet by phone or video for one-on-one meetings with their individual mentors once per month and with IRP twice a year. In addition, Emerging Scholars will participate in quarterly meetings with their cohort. In year 1, scholars will have two in-person meetings and two virtual meetings as a cohort. In year 2, scholars will have one in-person meeting and three virtual meetings as a cohort.

Expectations

Fellows are expected to dedicate significant time to furthering their research with the flexible funding provided in this grant as well as actively participate in development opportunities such as meetings with mentors, IRP, and the broader cohort. Emerging scholars are also asked to find ways to support the work of other fellows and use the training provided to mentor others. Fellows will be invited to attend and may be asked to present their research at a variety of IRP events and/or have their work highlighted in an IRP publication. Within 30 days of the end of the fellowship, fellows

must submit a three-page final report describing how the funding was spent, assessing professional accomplishments, discussing the quality and productivity of the mentoring relationship, and making recommendations for improving the initiative going forward. Scholars are expected to participate in follow-up activities such as program evaluation of this initiative and efforts to support future fellows.

Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed as follows.

1. Applications will be screened for completeness and eligibility:
 - a. online application completed;
 - b. application materials uploaded; and
 - c. applicant is a member of an underrepresented racial or ethnic group.
2. Qualifying applications will be evaluated by IRP faculty and staff as well as a panel of distinguished scholars selected by IRP. The panels will use the application, CV, written material, and letters of recommendation as the basis for scoring the following:
 - a. scholarly potential to advance scientific knowledge and public policy to reduce poverty;
 - b. potential of plan for using fellowship funds and mentor to advance professional goals and accomplishments; and
 - c. potential for plan to use experience to benefit other scholars in the future.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Applications are due on **Wednesday, May 29, 2024**. Complete applications must include both (1) applicant-provided proposal using the [online application form](#); and (2) two letters of reference submitted separately by the letter writers through the [online reference letter form](#).

Applicants are responsible for providing the [online reference letter form](#) to their letter writers and asking the letter writers to directly submit their letters by the application deadline. Both the applicant and the letter writer will receive a confirmation e-mail when the reference letter is submitted. Note that reference letters can be completed before or after the application is submitted but both the application and the two reference letters must be completed by the deadline for the application to be considered complete.

Your application should include the following materials as a single PDF file sent through the [online application form](#):

1. A letter (no more than three single-spaced pages) that:
 - a. describes your poverty research interests, as well as your professional goals in this area, progress toward them, and accomplishments to date;
 - b. specifies how your scholarly and career development will be aided by the award, including how you plan to use the funds;

- c. specifies how you plan to use your experience in the program to benefit other scholars in the future;
 - d. identifies two to three potential mentors with whom you would like to be matched, explaining why they are a good fit for you, and indicating how open you are to other suggestions for mentors (note that mentors do not need to be IRP affiliates);
2. Your curriculum vitae; and
 3. One example of your poverty-related written material.

REFERENCES (REQUIRED)

Two letters of reference are required from senior scholars attesting to your potential to make an impact in poverty-policy research and how you would benefit from the fellowship. References should be submitted separately by the letter writers through the [online reference letter form](#).

Letters of reference must be received by the application deadline, **May 29, 2024**.

CONTACT

Submit questions to irpapply@ssc.wisc.edu.

TIMELINE

Call for Applications Release	February 8, 2024
Optional Webinar	February 29, 2024, 2:00–2:30 p.m. (Central Time) Add to Calendar (iCal file)
Deadline for proposal and letters of recommendation receipt	May 29, 2024, 11:59 p.m. (Central Time)
Notification of award	late-June 2024
Individual welcome call with IRP (30 minutes)	late-July 2024
Final Budget and Brief Project Plan	August 30, 2024
Contract Starts	September 1, 2024
Fall in-person cohort training in Madison, WI (2-days)	November 7–8, 2024
Monthly one-on-one meetings with mentor	Monthly from September 2024–August 2026
Cohort call (1 hour)	Mid-February 2025
Spring in-person cohort training in DC (2-days)	May 21–22, 2025
Individual check-in call with IRP (30 minutes)	Mid-June 2025
Cohort call (1 hour)	Mid-July 2025
Cohort call (1 hour)	Mid-October 2025
Individual check-in call with IRP (30 minutes)	Mid-November 2025
Cohort call (1 hour)	Mid-February 2026
Spring in-person cohort training in DC (2-days)	Late spring/early summer 2026
Exit Interview	Before August 31, 2026

Contract Ends
Final report due

August 31, 2026
September 30, 2026

¹Includes the following racial/ethnic groups: (a) African American or Black; (b) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (c) Hispanic/Latino; (d) Cambodian, Vietnamese, Laotian, or Hmong; and (e) Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Preference will be given to those who are also of the first generation in their family to achieve a college degree.