



Institute for
Research on
Poverty

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

IRP National Dissertation Award

Applications Due
January 24, 2025

Fellowships begin
late summer 2025

Welcome



SARAH HALPERN-MEEKIN
DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH ON POVERTY



REBECCA SCHWEI
RESEARCH AND POLICY
COORDINATOR, INSTITUTE FOR
RESEARCH ON POVERTY

Agenda

- Overview of IRP and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), Office of Human Services Policy (HSP)
- Overview of Dissertation Award Goals and Activities
- Logistics of the application process
- Application resources
- Q & A
- Wrap up and closing

Institute for Research on Poverty

- Located within the University of Wisconsin-Madison
- <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/>
- Over 300 on and off-campus affiliates
- National Research Center on Poverty and Economic Mobility
- Leads the Collaborative of Poverty Centers

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

- ASPE is the principal advisor to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on policy development
- Responsible for major activities in policy coordination, legislation development, strategic planning, policy research, evaluation, and economic analysis

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation

- Within ASPE, HSP conducts policy research, analysis, evaluation, and coordination on various issues across the Department
- Focused on human services programs and their ability to promote economic and social well-being

National Dissertation Award Goals

Support

Support an outstanding dissertation project that explores issues poverty, inequality and economic mobility in human services

Amplify

Amplify evidence around prevention of social welfare challenges by supporting a dissertation project that produces actionable policy research on reducing inequalities in human services administered by HHS

Broaden

Broaden the corps of poverty researchers and engage communities in research or dissemination

Logistics of Application Process

- 1 award of \$25,000
- Funding can cover:

Tuition

Stipend

Data acquisition

Research assistance

Subject payments

Travel

Supplies

Logistics of the Application Process

- Provide a draft budget outlining when and how applicant plans to use the \$25,000 award
- University indirect costs may also be billed but IRP encourages home institutions to waive this cost
- Funding can be used during
 - summer 2025,
 - fall semester 2025,
 - spring semester 2026,
 - summer 2026
 - or any combination of the preceding times.

Logistics of the Application Process

- Doctoral students at US universities, other than UW-Madison
- Meet the NIH definition of disadvantaged background
 - [Populations Underrepresented in the Extramural Scientific Workforce | SWD at NIH](#)
- Expected to complete required coursework by September 2025 and expected to complete PhD by the 2026–2027 academic year
- Have the support of dissertation chair

Logistics of the Application Process

1. Complete [online Application Form](#)
2. Upload as 1 pdf:
 - Cover page
 - Description of proposed work (up to 10 pages)
 - CV
3. Request letter of sponsorship from dissertation chair submitted using [online Sponsor Submission Form](#)

Logistics of the Application Process

- January 24, 2025: Application Deadline
- Early April 2025: Notification of award
- Summer/ Fall 2025: Contract begins (flexible)
- Summer/Fall 2026: Contract ends (flexible, no later than 9/29/26)

National Dissertation Award Activities

- Meet with IRP to discuss HHS/ASPE product
- Submit brief progress reports every quarter
- Submit a draft HHS/ASPE product within three months before the end of the award period
- Meet with IRP to discuss draft
- Submit a revised final HHS/ASPE product by end of award period

Application Resources

- Get application instruction at:
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/national-dissertation-award-for-research-on-poverty-and-economic-mobility-2025-2026-call-for-applications/>
- Review frequently asked questions at:
 - <https://www.irp.wisc.edu/national-dissertation-award-for-research-on-poverty-and-economic-mobility-2025-2026-frequently-asked-questions-faqs/>
- Send questions to: irpapply@ssc.wisc.edu
- Sign up for IRP email announcements at:
<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/connect/>

Q & A

Put your questions in the Chat or
the Q & A box

Wrap up & closing

Thank you!