

## Social Workers on the Front Line of the Opioid Epidemic Frequently Asked Questions

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## General

When is the application due?

[Applications](#) are due Tuesday, October 8<sup>th</sup> by 7:00p.m. ET.

Is there a cost to participate?

No, participation is free. Selected programs and schools of social work will receive a \$5,000 stipend for participation in the learning collaborative. Selected field placements and students will also each receive a stipend. Each of the 7-8 students recruited by schools to participate will receive a stipend of up to \$6,000. Additionally, each selected school is allocated a total of \$10,000 for stipends for identified field placement sites, and exact amounts will be determined with the National Council depending on the number of sites and students placed.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the application and/or this opportunity?

Please email or call Amanda Baer, Project Coordinator, at [AmandaB@thenationalcouncil.org](mailto:AmandaB@thenationalcouncil.org) or 202-629-5799 with questions.

## Learning Collaborative

How long is the learning collaborative?

The learning collaborative will take place from October 2019 to May 2021, a 20-month period.

Who will participate in the learning collaborative?

This learning opportunity will bring together experts in the field, faculty from schools of social work, field placement supervisors and students.

As a part of this learning collaborative, each school will select a **faculty champion** to spearhead the school's effort. The faculty champion must teach the addictions-related coursework or be closely involved in development and application of the coursework. The faculty champion will be responsible for participating in the learning collaborative activities. Additional faculty and staff from schools are welcome to attend and participate along with the faculty champion.

What are the benefits of participating in the learning collaborative?

Selected programs and schools will receive a \$5,000 stipend for their participation in the learning collaborative. The stipend is intended to support work related to substance use and addiction. Although no formal budget is needed to apply, participating schools will be asked about their use of the stipend in order to share that information with the initiative's funder, New York Community Trust.

Additionally, as participants, schools will receive access to a menu of training and resource options customized to their individual needs, including:

- 1-on-1 coaching with faculty and supervisors on best practices for developing core competencies among social work students related to opioid and other substance use disorders;
- Peer-to-peer learning with other participating schools;

- A virtual learning collaborative to enhance faculty confidence in delivering new course content;
- A technical team site visit to schools of social work and field placement sites to support implementation; and
- Handouts and presentations to be used during coursework and/or supervision.

These training opportunities and resources will cover topics that align with the [2016 Surgeon General's Report Facing Addiction in America](#), including, but not limited to: the framework of addiction, pharmacologic/non-pharmacologic interventions for opioid use and other substance use disorders, and the role of social workers in addressing the opioid epidemic.

What will participating schools be expected to do as a part of their participation in the learning collaborative?

Throughout the learning collaborative, selected programs and schools will:

- Refine and/or create addiction and substance use-related coursework;
- Partner with local field placements that provide addiction-related services;
- Recruit 7-8 students to both take the addiction coursework and intern at a field placement that provides addiction treatment, prevention and/or recovery services;
- Regularly participate in learning collaborative activities;
- Host a site visit with our technical team; and
- Contribute to a learning collaborative process evaluation conducted by the National Council through completion of surveys, participating in interviews, etc.

### Eligibility

Our school's curricula and field placements are already set for the 2019-2020 school year. Are we still eligible if we can't make changes to the curricula until the 2020-2021 school year?

Yes, your school is still eligible to participate. Addiction-related coursework and field placements must be offered during the learning collaborative (October 2019 – May 2021), but the learning collaborative will focus on refining coursework for the 2020-2021 school year and applicable field placements must also be available during the 2020-2021.

Our school does not have any existing relationships with field placements that offer addictions services. Are we eligible to apply?

Eligible applicants must have a current relationship – in any capacity – with a field placement site that will support students in building their experience with addiction-related work. If your school is in an area with limited addiction service providers, you are still eligible, as long as you offer other options for meeting the field education requirements that focus on addiction-related work.

As a part of the learning collaborative, participating programs and schools will receive support expanding and/or strengthening partnerships with field placements, but eligible schools must have a foundation to work from.



**Jeff Richardson**, MBA, LCSW-C, Board Chair  
**Charles Ingoglia**, MSW, President and CEO

Our school does not offer any addiction-related coursework. Are we eligible to apply?  
Your school must offer at least one addiction-focused course as a part of the social work program.  
During the learning collaborative, schools will work with experts and peers to refine and expand the coursework, which is why a foundation is required.