



VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV) Postdoctoral Fellowship
VA VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC)
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Overview: The VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV), in collaboration with the VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), has created a postdoctoral fellowship program for those interested in recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless, criminal justice involved, or at risk for homelessness or criminal justice involvement. The NCHAV Fellowship is open to clinicians or non-clinicians with a doctoral degree or who have completed all requirements toward a doctoral degree from an accredited institution.

Fellows will have a formal connection with NCHAV and operational partners and be on the cutting-edge of the latest research, policy, and education developments in Veteran homelessness/criminal justice involvement. They will be expected to work with a NCHAV mentor along with a local mentor out of VA VISN 2. NCHAV Fellows will have opportunities to interact and collaborate on projects, including funded travel to meet in-person at the annual American Public Health Association Conference.

Program Description: The Fellows' primary appointment will be at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center (JJPVAMC) in the Bronx, NY, with a secondary appointment at the affiliate Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in Manhattan, NY. Training opportunities will reside in the research, clinical, and educational programs at both institutions. Fellows devote the majority of their time to research activities, research-related clinical activities, and educational activities, and the remaining time developing advanced clinical skills in direct patient care if appropriate. Individualized, mentored research and clinical training are combined with a state-of-the-art educational curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. VA Fellowship sites are linked electronically for didactic, academic, and research efforts. Our interdisciplinary program aims to train professionals to become outstanding clinical researchers in high priority areas of mental health. In collaboration with their mentors, Fellows will develop and implement a research project, publish and present findings, participate in grant writing, and utilize the latest technology for educational activities and, if appropriate, clinical service delivery.

Faculty: Within the VA system, Veteran justice issues fall under the umbrella of homelessness research and services. Veteran justice issues are therefore a partial focus of NCHAV and a potential focus of the NCHAV postdoctoral fellowship. The VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) Veterans Justice Lab, led by Dr. Emily Edwards, is excited to offer specialized opportunities and training for professionals interested in the NCHAV postdoctoral fellowship program. Research within the Veterans Justice Lab focuses broadly on identification and management of risk factors for Veteran justice involvement, homelessness, and suicide. Fellows can expect to develop skills in program development and evaluation; analysis of large, epidemiological datasets; complex statistical analysis; all aspects of research project development, execution, interpretation, and dissemination; interdisciplinary care coordination; and clinical intervention with at-risk Veterans. Those interested in learning more about the Veterans Justice Lab are encouraged to contact Dr. Emily Edwards at Emily.Edwards5@va.gov.

Other VISN 2 MIRECC faculty are internationally recognized for serious mental illness research in schizophrenia-spectrum disorders, severe affective disorders (e.g., bipolar disorder), and suicide. Research areas of expertise and interest among the faculty include using neuroimaging, psychophysiology, and molecular biological techniques to better understand the neurobiology of serious mental illness; psychosocial and behavioral approaches for the treatment of psychosis (e.g., CBT for psychosis), suicide (e.g., dialectical behavioral therapy), and cognitive impairments associated with schizophrenia, depression, and suicide (e.g., cognitive remediation, aerobic exercise); digital mobile assessment and interventions (MHealth); predictors of neurocognitive and daily functioning (e.g., exercise, sleep), and implementation science to promote evidence-based practices. More information about MIRECC Fellowship faculty members and their research interests can be found at <https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn2/ContactInfo.asp>. Fellows' mentorship can also include other faculty from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai <https://icahn.mssm.edu/about/departments/psychiatry>.

Selection Process: The selection process for candidates is based largely on match between career goals and the opportunities provided by the NCHAV Fellowship. The National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (the Center) promotes recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. The Center conducts and supports research; assesses the effectiveness of programs; identifies and disseminates best practices and integrates these practices into policies, programs, and services for homeless or at-risk Veterans; and serves as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to Veteran homelessness. Applicant's personal statements will be viewed as the primary source of information about the fellows, with letters of reference carefully checked to substantiate statements made in the statement and to ensure high levels of personal and professional integrity on the part of applicants. We have a systematic process for reviewing and ranking applicants once applications are received.

COVID-19: We have adopted measures to allow training activities to be conducted remotely, when possible, and will continue to collaborate with our fellows so that they can safely meet their training needs and professional goals throughout their fellowship.

Start Day: The start day is flexible and will usually begin between July 1st and October 1st, 2023.

Stipend and Benefits: Stipends and benefits are competitive.

Eligibility: Applicants must be U.S. citizens, hold a doctorate from an accredited program or have completed all requirements toward a doctoral degree from an accredited institution. Doctoral requirements, including dissertation, must be completed before the start of fellowship.

Application Due Date: Applications are due **December 15, 2022**.

How to Apply:

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents to Dr. Chi Chan at chi.chan1@va.gov:

1. A letter of interest that includes: (a) career goals and how these align with the mission of the VISN 2 MIRECC; (b) chosen primary research mentor and how the applicant's education, research, and clinical experience aligns well with this mentor's research program**; and (c) the clinical and research skills that the applicant would like to hone during their fellowship
2. A current Curriculum Vitae
3. A signed letter of completion or expected completion from graduate program
4. Graduate school transcripts

5. Three letters of recommendation
6. A writing sample
7. (optional) A two-page proposal for the research project the applicant plans to pursue with the guidance of their chosen mentor.

****Please note that applications will only be considered when a specified mentor has been identified in the cover letter.** A close working relationship with an identified mentor allows our Fellows to maximize their productivity and develop a successful career trajectory. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their chosen mentor early in the application process.

Our fellowship is an equal opportunity training program. The VA VISN 2 MIRECC encourages applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds including but not limited to ethnic and racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, and persons with disabilities. Persons with a history of military service, demonstrated interest in working with Veteran, forensic, and/or at-risk persons, and/or from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Please contact the Fellowship Director, Dr. Chi Chan at chi.chan1@va.gov, with any questions.

