

## An Overview of Financial Aid at The Institute for Clinical Social Work

ICSW has been certified by the Department of Education to participate in the William D. Ford Direct Lending program. Direct Lending is the Department of Education's major form of **self-help aid**.

### Getting Started

To apply for any form of Federal Financial Aid, you must first complete the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, which you can obtain by calling John Dowdy, Manager of Financial Aid, at 312-726-8480 x29 or by emailing him at [jdowdy@icsw.edu](mailto:jdowdy@icsw.edu). Or, you can fill it out online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Submitting online is as secure as and much quicker than submitting by mail. **The Institute deadline for FAFSA submittal is June 15 of each year.**

### Subsidized and Unsubsidized Loans

A **subsidized** loan is awarded on the basis of financial need. **Expected Family Contribution** (determined by the federal government based on income, savings, and dependents) subtracted from the **Cost of Attendance** (determined by the Institute) equals financial need.  $EFC - COA = \text{Need}$ . If the COA is larger than EFC, you have financial need. With subsidized loans, you will not be charged interest before you begin repayment or during authorized periods of deferment. The maximum amount you can take out per academic year is \$8,500.

An **unsubsidized** loan is not awarded on the basis of need. From the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full you will be charged interest. If you allow the interest to accumulate, it will be capitalized – that is, the interest will be added to the principal amount of your loan and additional interest will be based upon the higher amount. The maximum amount you can take out for the 2010/2011 academic year is \$12,000.

You can receive a subsidized and unsubsidized loan for the same enrollment period if you qualify for both loans and have not yet reached your Aggregate Loan Limit of \$138,500.

If you have any extra expenses that are not taken into account on the FAFSA (for example: travel expenses, dependant care expenses, or the need for a personal computer) we encourage you to submit your own budget detailing such expenses as you may be able adjust your personal COA and receive extra funds, subject to the professional judgment of the Financial Aid Administrator.

### Grad PLUS Loans

Prior to 2006, Federal PLUS loans were only available to the parents of undergraduate students. These flexible loans are now available to graduate students and their parents. Any student enrolled in a degree program at least half time is eligible to receive a PLUS loan. **ACP students are not eligible for the Grad PLUS loan**, as theirs is a certificate, not a degree program. This loan is not awarded on the basis of need, but does require a credit check. If you are denied based on your credit history, you may choose to use a cosigner. From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, the interest rate on new FFEL Grad PLUS loans will carry a **fixed rate of 8.50%**, and like the unsubsidized Stafford loan, this interest will accrue and be capitalized upon while you are in school, during any deferment period, and during repayment of your loan, which begins on or

before the date of your last disbursement (for example, if you plan to finish classes in the Spring of 2008, you must begin repaying your loan on or before the first day of the Spring 2008 semester). The maximum amount a student may borrow using this loan program is up to the total cost of your education as determined by the Financial Aid Administrator minus any other expected Financial Aid.

### **Loan Fees and Benefits**

Students will pay an origination fee for every loan up to 4% of the loan. This fee is deducted proportionately from each disbursement of the loan. For MOHELA (Bank of America), one of the Institute's most-used lenders, the fee is 3%. For example, if you need \$800, request \$824. This portion goes to the federal government and the guaranty agency to help reduce the cost of the loans.

Some lenders may waive this origination fee, as well as providing other interest rate reduction benefits during your repayment. For example, our loan servicer, MOHELA, offers up to a 3% interest rate reduction during repayment for participating in their **Rate Relief**<sup>SM</sup> program. Many lenders offer similar benefits and interest rate reductions during repayment for signing up for auto-debit payments which are deducted from your checking account every month, for making 6-12 consecutive monthly on-time payments and usually up to a 6-month grace period. **These repayment benefits are one of your most important considerations when choosing a lender.**

### **Loan Limits and Eligibility**

To qualify for Stafford Loans, you must be considered at least half time, which means five credit hours for **Part-time** students, four for **ACP** and three credit hours for **Students-at-large**.

**Full-time** students who qualify for subsidized loans may be eligible for up to \$20,500 a year.

### **Deadlines and Disbursements**

For Students registering for fall and spring semesters, Financial Aid Applications and Loan Requests will be accepted for the entire academic year. It will be divided into two disbursements – one for the fall and one for the spring. This request must be submitted no later than the first day of the fall semester to prevent delays in the disbursement of funds. For students attending only the spring semester, a loan request must be submitted no later than the first day of the start of the semester.

In addition, first-time borrowers at ICSW will also be required to submit their Financial Aid Application materials by July 15, 2010. They must also complete both a Master Promissory Note and Entrance Counseling, which will both be due before funds are disbursed, but no later than 4 weeks into the semester.

After the first month of classes, no more loan requests will be taken.

### **Scholarships**

ICSW currently offers one scholarship for full-time students, the Elizabeth Jacobs Scholarship:

The Elizabeth Jacobs Scholarship is awarded to full-time students who have successfully completed their first year of studies, who have financial need, and who are nominated by faculty. The scholarship is designed to support promising students who are dedicated to working with families challenged by poverty, immigration or trauma.

To apply for the scholarship, contact the Financial Aid Administrator.

You can also obtain scholarships by signing up for an account on any scholarship search engine. [www.Mapping-Your-Future.org](http://www.Mapping-Your-Future.org) is an excellent resource for these search engines, as well as many other of your Financial Aid queries. The following link leads to a comprehensive list of the aforementioned search engines:

<http://www.mapping-your-future.org/features/resources.cfm#Scholarships,Grants,Fellowships>

If you have any further questions regarding the funding of your education at ICSW, please contact John Dowdy, Manager of Financial Aid, at 312-726-8480 x29 or by emailing him at [jdowdy@icsw.edu](mailto:jdowdy@icsw.edu).

**\*Please keep in mind that this document is meant to be a brief overview of the general Financial Aid process at ICSW. Please refer to the Financial Aid Policies and Procedures Manual for more detailed information.**