



## **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 Financial Aid Administrator Pierre Smith at (312) 935-4234 or by email at [psmith2@icsw.edu](mailto:psmith2@icsw.edu). Or, you can fill it out online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>. Submitting online is secure 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 2011/2012 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. Graduate and professional degree students can borrow a Direct PLUS Loan to help cover education expenses.

The terms and conditions applicable to PLUS Loans for graduate and professional students include:

- A determination that you (the applicant) do not have an adverse credit history; and
- A fixed interest rate of 7.9% for Direct PLUS Loans.

Student applicants are required to complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA). In addition, before you can receive a PLUS Loan, your school must have determined your maximum eligibility for Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans. 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 2012, you must begin repaying your loan on or before the first day of the Spring 2012 semester). *The maximum amount a student may borrow for Graduate PLUS loans 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**

The Direct subsidized loan interest rate for graduate students is fixed at 6.8%. The interest rate for Federal Direct unsubsidized loans is fixed at 6.8% for graduate students. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest until loan repayment begins, whereas unsubsidized loans accrue from when the loan is disbursed.

Students will pay an origination fee for every loan as well. This fee is deducted proportionately from each disbursement of the loan. For Direct Loans, the Institute's designated lender, the fee is 1.0%. However, you will receive an upfront 0.5% rebate at the time of origination based on paying your first 12 monthly payments on time, so the assessed amount is only ½ percent. This is deducted from the loan at the time of disbursement. For example, if you borrow \$8,500 for the academic year, a total of \$42.50 will be deducted from your loan amount and paid directly to the U.S. Department of Education. Thus, the annual net amount of the loan that would credit or disburse to your account is approximately \$8,458. But remember, when you go into loan repayment, if you do not make the first 12 payments on time, you will be charged the 0.5% fee.

#### **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 and four for **ACP**.

**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, 2011. 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.

**Entrance Counseling:** <https://www.dl.ed.gov/borrower/EntrCounselingStart.do>

### **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.

A second scholarship, honoring the memory of Marcia V. Adler, is in the process of development. The qualifications to be eligible for the scholarship and the application process will be announced before the beginning of classes in September 2011.

You can also obtain scholarships by signing up for an account on any scholarship search engine. <http://mappingyourfuture.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://mappingyourfuture.org/paying/scholarshipresources.htm>

If you have any further questions regarding the funding of your education at ICSW, please contact Financial Aid Administrator Pierre Smith at (312) 935-4234 or [psmith2@icsw.edu](mailto:psmith2@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.**