



## 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 Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program. FFEL is the Department of Education's major form of *self-help aid*.

### **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, 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 interest rate is adjusted every year on July 1, guaranteed to never go higher than 8.25%. From July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005 the interest rate will be 2.77% while in school or deferment and 3.37% during repayment. Students will be notified of interest rate changes throughout the life of the loan. The maximum amount you can take out per academic year is \$10,000.

You can receive a subsidized and unsubsidized loan for the same enrollment period.

Students will pay a 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), the Institute's main lender, 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.

To apply, you can obtain a *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA) by calling Dave Taylor, the Financial Aid Administrator, at 312-726-8480 x21 or by emailing him at [daveicsw@aol.com](mailto:daveicsw@aol.com). Or you can fill it out online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Submitting online is as secure and much quicker a process than submitting by mail.

## Scholarships

ICSW offers one scholarship for full-time students: the *Diversity Enhancement Scholarship*. A limited award is given based on need and qualifications. There are many ways to define diversity: race, ethnicity, sexual preference, economic class, religion, age – all these things, as well as various points of view, contribute to a diverse population. To apply, contact the Financial Aid Administrator.

## 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 three credit hours for *Students-at-large*. The total loan amount allowed is one and a half times the total cost of your classes. For example, if you are taking five credit hours each semester, at \$672 an hour, then the maximum you can take out for the year is \$10,080. (Students who started the program before the 2003–2004 academic year will be charged on a course basis of \$968 per course, but the one and a half times principle and credit hour requirements still apply.)

**Full-time** students can – depending on whether they qualify for subsidized loans – take out a total of \$18,500.

**Advanced** students can qualify for Stafford Loans for a total of six years. (Nine years is the time limit to complete the program – four years of course work and up to six years as an Advanced student) \$5,000 is the maximum Advanced students can take out annually and \$10,000 is the total amount you can take during your entire time as an Advanced student.

## Deadlines and Disbursements

For students registering for both fall and spring semesters, only one loan request 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 four weeks into the start of the fall semester. For students attending only the spring semester, a loan request must be submitted no later than four weeks into the start of the semester.

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

You may petition the Financial Aid Administrator for more funds by writing a letter and including a detailed budget.