Children FIRST
Children and Families Institute for Research, Support and Training

Fordham University
Graduate School of Social Service
2016-2017

Children FIRST Scholars
INTRODUCTION

A successful applicant for the Children FIRST Scholars is a student who has a commitment to academic excellence, is seeking to gain leadership skills, and has a specific interest in working upon graduation with children and families in Westchester County.

The Children FIRST scholarship program will provide advanced year Fordham University MSW students interested in working with children and their families in Westchester County with the opportunity to receive a scholarship. This opportunity is dependent on future funding of the Scholars Program.

ELIGIBILITY

In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must:

• Be entering the advanced year of MSW study at Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service in Westchester in September;
• Be in need of financial help to continue her/his education;
• Have received a minimum 3.75 or better GPA in their Foundation year of the MSW program or have been granted advanced standing status and received a minimum 3.5 GPA in social work courses during the BSW program;
• Be interested in a field placement at an agency in Westchester County providing services to low-income children or adolescents and their families; and
• Plan to work in Westchester County for an agency providing services to children/adolescents and their families upon graduation.

PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The Children FIRST Scholars program encompasses a range of components in which students are expected to participate:

• Take SWGS6421- Clinical Practice II – Children, Youth & Families.
• Help to organize and plan an annual conference that brings together Westchester County leaders, students, and members of the social work community to examine cutting edge issues in services to children, youth, and their families.
• Plan a research presentation for the annual conference.

This scholarship program is made possible through funding from OTA/Off The Record Research
**Field Placement**

The Children FIRST Scholars program will provide eligible students with the opportunity to be placed at a Westchester-based agency that provides services to traumatized children, adolescents and their families. Some examples of the placements available include:

- A Westchester-based residential treatment center that provides individual, group, and family services, as well as educational and recreation services, to children and adolescents suffering from the impact of child abuse and neglect.
- A Westchester-based mental health center that provides comprehensive counseling services to children, adolescents and their families.
- A program engaged in the design and implementation of a cross-systems, community-based approach to meeting the multiple needs of seriously emotionally disturbed children and their families.
- An in-patient mental health program for adolescents and latency age children
- A family program for children and families served by the public child welfare system in Westchester County that evaluates goals of permanency, safety and child well-being.

**Courses**

Students will be required to select one course from a diverse offering of electives related to children’s issues. Examples of courses considered to be courses in child and family issues are: Child Abuse & Family Violence (SWGS 6028); Cognitive/Behavioral Treatment with Children and Adults (SWGS 6426); Family Oriented Treatment (SWGS 6403) Interdisciplinary Responses to Child Abuse and Neglect (SWGS 6012); Social Work and the Law (SWGS 6008) Social Work Practice in Schools (SWGS 6418); and Trauma Treatment with Children and Adolescents (SWGS 6436). Other courses need to be approved by the Associate Dean.

**Leadership Development**

In developing two special projects for themselves, other students and the social work community, Children FIRST Scholars will be able to explore, organize, and plan presentations on issues affecting children and families that are of interest to them. Planning and implementing a conference and identifying and implementing a project will allow students to enhance their knowledge, while providing them an opportunity to practice administrative and leadership skills.
**About Children FIRST**

The Children and Families Institute for Research Support and Training (Children FIRST) was created in 1988 and is part of Fordham University’s Graduate School of Social Service. Its mission is to support families and protect children through the advancement of practice skills and knowledge. This mission is operationalized through the provision of training, research, and supportive services to the public and private non-profit agencies that deliver social services to children and families. The Institute’s activities range from in-service training and staff development to organizational consultation and professional development activities.

**Children FIRST Staff**

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Professor and Director

**Linda White-Ryan, PhD, LMSW, RN, CASAC**  
Clinical Specialist

**Gail Davenport, LCSW**  
Field Coordinator

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APPLICATION FOR CHILDREN and FAMILY INSTITUTE SCHOLARSHIP –
Please note these scholarship funds are dependent on availability of funding for 2016-2017.

Please complete this application using Word and email to: Heyman@fordham.edu
Name the file: LASTNAME – Children and Families Institute Scholarship Application

DUE DATE: May 16, 2016

The Children and Families Institute’s Scholarship is for students:
1. who will be starting their Advanced Year Field Placement in September 2016
2. who have submitted the online application for an Advanced Year field placement
3. who are willing to have their field placement with an agency serving children and families
4. who are committed to a career in Westchester County
5. who are willing to work on the Children and Families Annual Conference
6. who are willing to complete a poster for the Children and Families Annual Conference
Advanced Standing students must have been accepted into the MSW program, confirmed their acceptance into the program by May 16, 2016 in order for their application to be reviewed.

CONTACT INFORMATION
Name:
Fordham Email address: Optional: additional email address:
Home address:
Phone number(s) Cell: Home: Work:
Fordham ID number (FIND):
List any languages in which you are fluent:

REFERENCES
Please provide two references whom we may call. The required references are:
1. Your Generalist Practice I professor at Fordham Graduate School of Social Service, or the equivalent class if you are Advanced Standing. You may choose one additional professor as a reference, if you choose.
2. Field Instructor from the Foundation Year placement.
You may also choose to include an additional professional reference who is relevant to your interest in children and families. Please do not include any relatives or friends as references. Please obtain permission from these references to receive a call from Dr. Heyman.

GENERALIST PRACTICE I PROFESSOR
Name: Course title:
Daytime Phone number: Fordham email address:
Other email address used by the professor:

FIELD INSTRUCTOR
Name: Title: Agency:
Daytime Phone number: Email address:

OPTIONAL ADDITIONAL REFERENCE
Name: Title:
Relationship to you:
Daytime Phone number: Email address:
RESUME

Please submit a resume that includes the job responsibilities and client populations for each work experience. You may include volunteer work and field placement, but please identify them as such.

Please name the file with your application: Lastname – Resume.

TRANSCRIPT and FIELD WORK EVALUATION

Submission of this application indicates that you have given permission to Dr. Heyman to view your GSSS transcript and Field Work Evaluation.

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Why are you interested in the Children and Families Institute’s Scholarship?

Please insert this on the next page. Your response should be double-spaced, 1” margins, and a maximum of two pages.
Start Personal Statement here: