



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
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Commissioner

New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)

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Gotham Center
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**2021 Mental Health Scholarship Program
One Year Residency (MHSP/OYR)
at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College (SSSW)**

DEADLINE FOR DOHMH MHSP/OYR Letter of Intent:

January 8, 2021

Send Letter of Intent to: mmendelson@health.nyc.gov AND
ehyde@health.nyc.gov

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO SSSW AT HUNTER COLLEGE
OYR PROGRAM:**

March 1, 2021

For scholarship information email:

Marlene Mendelson, LCSW at mmendelson@health.nyc.gov

INTRODUCTION:

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) Bureau of Mental Health and Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families invite qualified individuals to apply for the Fall 2021 Mental Health Scholarship Program (MHSP). The MHSP provides a unique opportunity for those employed in an **agency that has at least one program in contract with the DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health or Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families** to pursue a Master of Social Work (MSW) degree at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College's One Year Residency (OYR) Program. The scholarship is a 4 – 4 ½ year commitment which covers full tuition to the Hunter OYR Program if all requirements are met. Applicants are required to continue working in their current program while taking courses towards their Master's degree. Individuals that receive the scholarship are also required to work in their program an additional 2 years post-graduation to fulfill the DOHMH requirement for full reimbursement of tuition.

Please note that there was a change to one of the eligibility requirements last year – as long as your agency has at least one contract with DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health or Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families, employees are eligible to apply if they meet the other eligibility requirements. Employees do not have to work in a specific program within your agency. MHSP candidates are still required to work in their existing program for two to two and one-half years during the program and two years after graduation.

PROGRAM GOAL:

The goal of the Mental Health Scholarship program is to contribute to New York City's community mental health system by increasing the pool of skilled professionals employed in community-based agencies serving adults and children with serious mental illnesses, including: veterans, underserved minorities, new immigrants, homeless individuals, people with co-occurring disorders, children in high risk groups, including children diagnosed with serious emotional or behavioral disorders, children under age 5, children involved with the foster care system, children with histories of trauma, and children living in poverty. Through provision of a professional social work

education, the MHSP builds capabilities for practitioners to work with the diverse population that makes up New York City. The objective is to provide a graduate social work education to employees working in community-based agencies whose programs receive funds from the NYC DOHMH's Bureau of Mental Health (BMH) or Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF). The scholarship is administered by DOHMH but applicants must meet the requirements for admission to the One Year Residency (OYR) Program at the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College. The OYR is tailored to the needs of these employees who continue to work while pursuing their Master's degree. In addition to receiving full tuition through DOHMH, the MHSP candidates receive intensive field/faculty advisement, mentoring, writing support and seminars through Hunter College.

ELIGIBILITY:

The MHSP provides qualified applicants with the opportunity to pursue an MSW degree. Applicants must meet **all** of these requirements:

- Applicant must be a full-time employee **in an agency with at least one program providing mental health services in contract with the Bureau of Mental Health or the Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families.** (*Individuals who work in programs that **only have contracts with the Bureau of Alcohol & Drug Use Prevention, Care & Treatment or the Bureau of Developmental Disabilities are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for this scholarship.***)
- Applicant must meet the Silberman School of Social Work's admission standards and requirements for the OYR program.
- Applicant must have two years of full-time, post-baccalaureate social work or social services experience in a social service institution.
- Applicant must be a legal resident of New York State.
- Applicant must be prepared to remain working at his/her current job for the duration of the MHSP/OYR, **PLUS** remain in his/her job for 2 years post-graduation.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Admission is for Fall 2021.

Please refer to the SSSW at Hunter College website for information on the One-Year Residency Program.

- 1) Applicants can find the **DOHMH Letter of Intent** on the Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College website, in the Admissions section. Contracted agencies will also receive the Letter of Intent. **Letter of Intent is due January 8, 2021 by 5:00 pm.**
<https://sssw.hunter.cuny.edu/admissions/deadlines/>
<https://sssw.hunter.cuny.edu/quick-links/forms/>
- 2) Applicants must email the **Letter of Intent** back to DOHMH for approval. The Letter of Intent must be complete and legible. **Please type "DOHMH Mental Health Scholarship Program" in the subject line of the email.**
- 3) If DOHMH approves you as eligible to apply for the MHSP/OYR, then your information will be sent to the Silberman School of Social Work's Admission Office. You may complete and submit the online application for the OYR Program, and select the "Mental Health Scholarship Program" as the program of study. (You will not need to submit a separate application for the Mental Health Scholarship Program.) **Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College OYR applications are due March 1, 2021.**
- 4) You should indicate "pay by check" when you submit the application. Upon approval by DOHMH, the application fee will be waived.

Applicants must apply online at Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College/Admissions. DOHMH cannot disclose any information with respect to candidacy.