



THE EQUAL PROTECTION PROJECT
A Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation
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BARRINGTON, RI 02806
www.EqualProtect.org

October 16, 2025

BY EMAIL

Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

BY EMAIL

Paula Stannard, Esq.
Director, Office for Civil Rights
U.S. Department of Health and Human
Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Discriminatory Grantmaking at Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Director Stannard:

The Equal Protection Project of the Legal Insurrection Foundation, a non-profit that, among other things, seeks to ensure equal protection under the law and opposes unlawful discrimination in any form, submits this letter to alert you to discriminatory grantmaking practices at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and to request that changes be made to bring these programs into compliance with the law and administration policy.

Through a review of publicly available databases, we have identified three (3) HHS grant programs that require recipients to implement discriminatory selection criteria. These grants are listed in **Exhibit A**. Based on publicly available information, these programs appear to be active.

These practices violate the federal civil rights laws and constitutional guarantees of equal protection, including Title VI and the Fifth Amendment. Such practices also violate Executive

Order 14173¹, which, among other directives, requires executive departments to eliminate racial and other unlawful preferences:

- **Sec. 2 . *Policy.*** It is the policy of the United States to protect the civil rights of all Americans and to promote individual initiative, excellence, and hard work. I therefore order all executive departments and agencies (agencies) to terminate all discriminatory and illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs, activities, guidance, regulations, enforcement actions, consent orders, and requirements. I further order all agencies to enforce our longstanding civil-rights laws and to combat illegal private-sector DEI preferences, mandates, policies, programs, and activities.
- **Sec. 4 . *Encouraging the Private Sector to End Illegal DEI Discrimination and Preferences.*** (a) The heads of all agencies, with the assistance of the Attorney General, shall take all appropriate action with respect to the operations of their agencies to advance in the private sector the policy of individual initiative, excellence, and hard work identified in section 2 of this order.

We urge your office to take immediate action to bring these discriminatory programs into compliance with the law and administration policy.

Respectfully submitted,

/William A. Jacobson/

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President
Legal Insurrection Foundation
Contact@legalinsurrection.com

/Robert J. Fox/

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¹ <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity> [<https://archive.is/wip/uEysS>] (accessed October 16, 2025).

U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
October 16, 2025
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CC (by email):

Harmeet K. Dhillon, Esq.
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Exhibit A

Discriminatory Grants

1. NBCCF MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (MFP-MHC)

Link: https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_H79SM090069_075

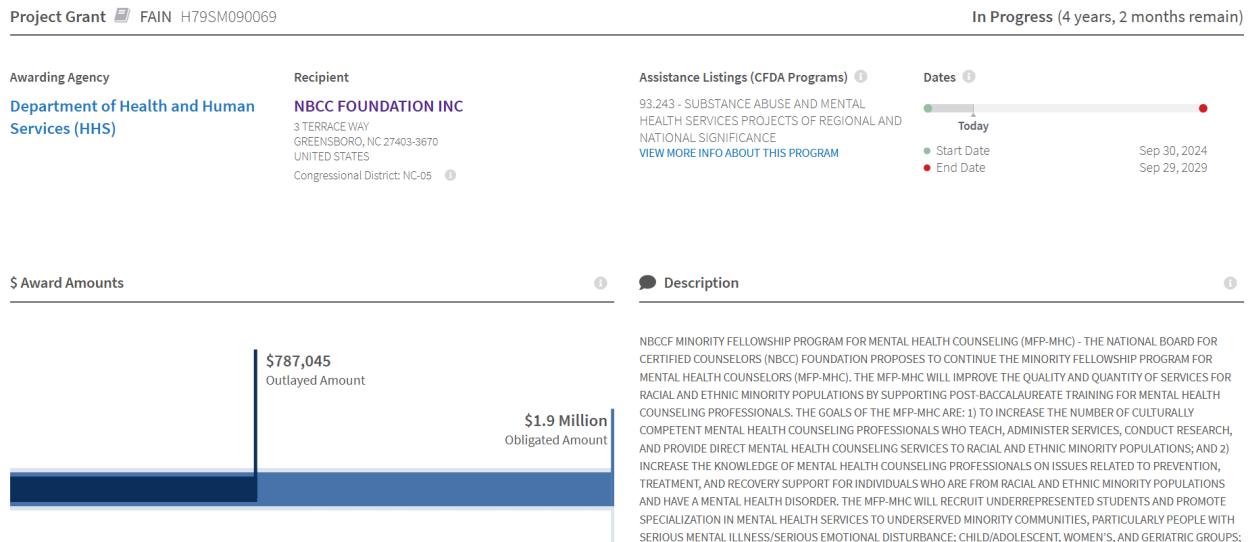
Archived Link: <https://archive.is/wip/9nOMc>

Recipient Name: NBCC Foundation Inc

Program Website: <https://www.nbcc.org/advocacy/mfp>

[<https://archive.is/wip/dPNCc>]

Discriminatory Grant Description: “THE MFP-MHC WILL RECRUIT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS AND PROMOTE SPECIALIZATION IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED MINORITY COMMUNITIES.”²



² HHS considers “underrepresented” populations in education and workforce programs to consist of individuals from racial and ethnic minority groups. See <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GOVPUB-HE-PURL-gpo64706/pdf/GOVPUB-HE-PURL-gpo64706.pdf> [<https://archive.ph/wip/IuLS3>](accessed October 16, 2025).

2. **NBCCF MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADDICTIONS COUNSELING (MFP-AC)**

Link: https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_H79SM090068_075

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/qlmyy>

Recipient Name: NBCC Foundation Inc

Program Website: <https://www.nbcc.org/advocacy/mfp>

[\[https://archive.is/wip/dPNCc\]](https://archive.is/wip/dPNCc)

Discriminatory Grant Description: “THE MFP-AC WILL RECRUIT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS AND WILL ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN ADDICTIONS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED MINORITY COMMUNITIES.”

Project Grant  FAIN H79SM090068

In Progress (4 years, 2 months remain)

Awarding Agency

Department of Health and Human
Services (HHS)

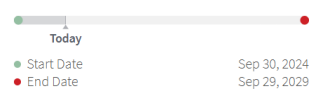
Recipient

NBCC FOUNDATION INC
3 TERRACE WAY
GREENSBORO, NC 27403-3670
UNITED STATES
Congressional District: NC-05 

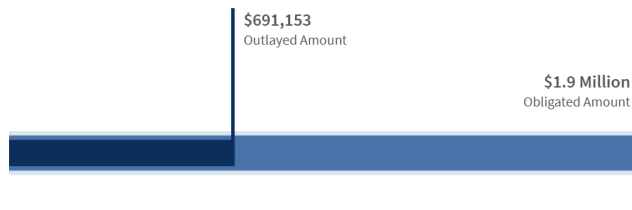
Assistance Listings (CFDA Programs)

93.243 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES PROJECTS OF REGIONAL AND
NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
[VIEW MORE INFO ABOUT THIS PROGRAM](#)

Dates



\$ Award Amounts



Description

NBCCF MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADDICTIONS COUNSELING (MFP-AC) - THE NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFIED COUNSELORS (NBCC) FOUNDATION, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NAADAC, THE ASSOCIATION FOR ADDICTIONS PROFESSIONALS, PROPOSES TO CONTINUE THE MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM FOR ADDICTIONS COUNSELORS (MFP-AC). THE MFP-AC WILL IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF SERVICES FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS BY SUPPORTING POST- BACCALAUREATE TRAINING FOR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND ADDICTIONS COUNSELING PROFESSIONALS. THE GOALS OF THE MFP-AC ARE: 1) TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CULTURALLY COMPETENT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PROFESSIONALS WHO TEACH, ADMINISTER SERVICES, CONDUCT RESEARCH, AND PROVIDE DIRECT SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES TO RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS; AND 2) INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE OF SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ON ISSUES RELATED TO PREVENTION, TREATMENT, AND RECOVERY SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FROM RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS AND HAVE A SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER. THE MFP-AC WILL RECRUIT UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS AND WILL ENCOURAGE SPECIALIZATION IN ADDICTIONS/SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES TO UNDERSERVED MINORITY

3. **COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

Link: https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_H79SM090071_075

Archived Link: <https://archive.ph/wip/9LuHZ>

Recipient Name: Council on Social Work Education

Program Website: <https://www.cswe.org/centers-initiatives/minority-fellowship-program/mfp-doctoral-students/> [<https://archive.is/wip/deltu>]

Discriminatory Grant Description: “THE FELLOWSHIP TARGETS, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF RACIAL AND ETHNICALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES INCLUDING AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE, ASIAN, BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN, HISPANIC/LATINO AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER.”

Project Grant  FAIN H79SM090071

In Progress (4 years, 2 months remain)

Awarding Agency

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Recipient

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

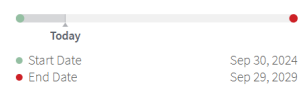
333 JOHN CARLYLE ST STE 400
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314-5767
UNITED STATES

Congressional District: VA-08 

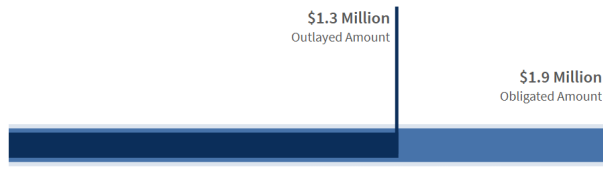
Assistance Listings (CFDA Programs)

93.243 - SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROJECTS OF REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE
[VIEW MORE INFO ABOUT THIS PROGRAM](#)

Dates



\$ Award Amounts



Description

COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM - THE COUNCIL ON SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION MINORITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (CSWE MFP) STRENGTHENS AND DEVELOPS THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE BY SUPPORTING MASTER (MSW) AND DOCTORAL SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS COMMITTED TO WORKING WITH RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS WHO ARE LIVING WITH OR AT RISK OF MENTAL HEALTH AND/OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS. THE PURPOSE OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO RECRUIT, TRAIN AND SUPPORT MSW AND DOCTORAL SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS TO REDUCE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DISPARITIES, ADVANCE THE QUALITY OF MENTAL AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER PREVENTION AND TREATMENT SERVICES, AND IMPROVE HEALTH CARE OUTCOMES FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS. CSWE MFP PREPARES STUDENTS WITH AN ENHANCED LEVEL OF CULTURAL COMPETENCE, GREATER AWARENESS OF DISPARITIES, AND EXPERIENCE WITH ADVOCACY AND POLICY REFORM THAT SHAPE THE TYPES OF SERVICES AND ACCESS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AVAILABLE FOR RACIAL AND ETHNIC MINORITY POPULATIONS. THE FELLOWSHIP TARGETS, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF RACIAL AND ETHNICALLY