



Announcement of the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Emerging Scholars *Making Connections* Research Awards

Up to three 12-month awards of \$10,000 each will be made to emerging scholars of color as part of the Emerging Scholars Initiative of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (www.aecf.org), which is devoted to developing a brighter future for millions of children at risk of poor educational, economic, social and health outcomes. The Emerging Scholars Initiative is part of Expanding the Bench[®], a core strategy of the Foundation's Research, Evaluation and Learning (REAL) Unit. This strategy aims to increase the number of historically underrepresented researchers and evaluators of color such as African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and underrepresented Asians.

As part of the Emerging Scholars Initiative, NORC at the University of Chicago (www.norc.org) will pair scholars with a *Making Connections* researcher for mentoring around issues such as study design, analysis of the *Making Connections* dataset, and manuscript writing and other forms of dissemination. Emerging Scholars will also have access to NORC researchers in a wide variety of disciplines to discuss their aspirations and to seek career development guidance. NORC is an independent research institution that delivers reliable data and rigorous analysis to guide critical programmatic, business, and policy decisions.

Within this initiative, scholars must propose to conduct studies using the *Making Connections* dataset, which NORC maintains with Foundation funding, to investigate the well-being of children and families in low-income communities. The *Making Connections* survey is a set of longitudinal data collection activities conducted over a ten-year period in 10 U.S. cities, with 3 waves of data collection in 7 of the cities and two waves of data collection in the other 3. Within these cities, the study was fielded in selected low-income neighborhoods. At each wave, the sample is fully representative of the households in these areas. Households with children were followed over multiple waves regardless of whether they remained in the original study neighborhoods or moved to other locations. Thus, the *Making Connections* survey is designed to measure both neighborhood change and changes in the well-being of children and families.

Information about the *Making Connections* survey methodology and links to publications using the data can be found at <http://mcstudy.norc.org/>. The *Making Connections* survey data are available through NORC at the University of Chicago's Data Enclave <http://www.dataenclave.org>. By working in the Enclave, researchers are able to utilize data sets that contain geographically specific neighborhood information within a secure computing environment. The Enclave houses several versions of the *Making Connections* data files designed to support longitudinal analysis on neighborhoods, households and children over time. The Enclave also provides a full set of statistical analysis software and tools for the use of its members.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation invites you to submit applications for research projects that utilize the *Making Connections* data sets and address significant questions that will advance knowledge related to low-income families, children and neighborhoods. The proposed research must include a plan to complete the research within a 12-month period, beginning on March 1, 2017. The research must lead to a publishable manuscript and, if feasible, a short brief. Scholars must have completed their doctoral studies within the previous five years, or be in the process of completing their dissertation with all coursework and exams completed. Scholars are responsible for obtaining approval from Institutional Review Board(s) prior to the initiation of work. Each scholar will receive up to 40 hours of mentoring from a scholar who has in-depth knowledge of the *Making Connections* dataset.

Applicants will be selected based on an assessment of the qualifications of the applicant, quality of proposed research, the likelihood of influential dissemination of resulting research findings, and the extent to which this award will benefit the applicant including their research career trajectory. We strongly suggest that applicants review prior research using these data to maximize the relevance and impact of proposed projects.

Questions should be emailed to both Cathy Haggerty (haggerty@norc.uchicago.edu) and Jeffrey Poirier (jpoirier@aecf.org) by **November 30, 2016**.

Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2016, 11:59 PM Eastern.

Please see the following two pages for the application. Applications should be sent to haggerty@norc.uchicago.edu and jpoirier@aecf.org; please be sure to write “Emerging Scholar Initiative Application” in the subject line. Please include a curriculum vita with your application. Proposals will be reviewed by the selection committee and applicants will be notified of the outcome of the review process by **January 31, 2017**. Applications will be judged based on the quality of the proposed study and an assessment of the study’s potential impact.

Emerging Scholars Initiative Application

I. Contact Information

1. Name
2. Mailing address
3. City/state/zip code
4. Home phone number
5. Cell phone number
6. Preferred email address
7. Email address 2

II. Demographics

1. What is your race? Indicate all that apply.
 - White
 - Black or African American
 - Asian Indian
 - Chinese
 - Filipino
 - Japanese
 - Korean
 - Vietnamese
 - Native Hawaiian
 - Guamanian or Chamorro
 - Samoan
 - Other Asian- Specify race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on in the field box directly below.
 - Other Pacific Islander- Specify race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on in the field box directly below.
 - Some other race- Specify race in the field box directly below.
 - Specify race if you selected Other Asian, Other Pacific Islander or Some other race here:
2. Are you of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin? Indicate all that apply.
 - No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
 - Yes, Mexican, Mexican American, Chicano
 - Yes, Puerto Rican
 - Yes, Cuban
 - Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin- Specify origin, for example Argentinean, Columbian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on in the field box directly below.
3. Citizenship and place of birth
 - Are you a U.S. citizen?
 - What is your country of birth?
 - If foreign born, what is your age of arrival to the U.S.?
4. What is your gender?
 - Male
 - Female
 - Other (specify):
5. Do you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Prefer not to answer

III. Qualifications

1. Educational Background (List institutions from which more than 6 credit hours have been earned.)
 - Institution
 - Dates of attendance
 - Major
 - Degree and year awarded
2. Current or Most Recent Employment
 - Job title
 - Organization
 - Mailing address
 - Supervisor's name, title, phone # and email address
 - Dates of employment
3. What quantitative training have you received and when?
4. What is your level of competence with the following types of analytic programs (select one for each type):
 - **SAS:** (a) No experience; (b) Beginner (basic understanding of program functions, will need guidance to use the program for analyses); (c) Intermediate (able to apply more complex program functions, will need guidance to use some program features); (d) Advanced (significant understanding of program functions—able to use with little or no guidance)
 - **SPSS:** (a) No experience; (b) Beginner (basic understanding of program functions, will need guidance to use the program for analyses); (c) Intermediate (able to apply more complex program functions, will need guidance to use some program features); (d) Advanced (significant understanding of program functions—able to use with little or no guidance)
 - **STATA:** (a) No experience; (b) Beginner (basic understanding of program functions, will need guidance to use the program for analyses); (c) Intermediate (able to apply more complex program functions, will need guidance to use some program features); (d) Advanced (significant understanding of program functions—able to use with little or no guidance)

IV. Proposed Study (no more than 1,200 words)

1. Title of study proposed using *Making Connections* dataset
2. Overview of topic and study background (1-2 paragraphs)
3. Description of the study including (1) purpose, (2) main study questions and hypotheses, (3) importance of the research, (4) analytic methods, (5) whether/how the proposed research aligns with and furthers your body of research, and (6) dissemination outlets and strategies.

V. Benefits and Potential Challenges (no more than 750 words)

1. How would this study relate to your scholarship and research agenda?
2. What do you most hope to gain from this opportunity—how will this opportunity advance your career goals?
3. How would this opportunity benefit the field?
4. What are some challenges you anticipate in participating in this initiative—and how do you propose addressing (and minimizing) these challenges?

VI. Professional References

List three references – at least one of which must be from your doctoral program chair and/or advisor. Be sure to include the following information for each reference:

1. Name and title
2. Organization
3. Mailing address
4. Phone
5. Email address