

Eligibility Criteria - Center for HIV/AIDS Minority Pipeline in Substance Abuse (CHAMPS)

5.6.1. Eligibility: As specified in the RFA, eligible candidates are under-represented in any of these classes: (a) underrepresented racial and ethnic groups, (b) disabilities (e.g., physical, vision or hearing impaired and learning disabled), and (c) Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or communities. Accordingly, our application forms will collect data on ethnicity, annual household income, and disabilities. We will use classifications for underrepresentation by race and ethnicity put forward by the National Science Foundation⁴³ (i.e., African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives, Asian/Pacific Islanders/Native Hawaiians and Hispanics). We will define disabilities as recommended in the RFA (i.e., those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, which include vision and hearing impairments, physical and learning disabilities). Finally, we will apply the U.S. poverty index for determining household incomes that are indicative of economic hardship, based on published reports by the U.S. Census at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/index.shtml>. As required in the RFA, for individuals from low income backgrounds, we will be sure to require that the applicant demonstrate their income status, by showing that they have qualified for Federal disadvantaged assistance or they have received any of the following student loans: Health Professional Student Loans (HPSL), Loans for Disadvantaged Student Program, or they have received scholarships from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the Scholarship for Individuals with Exceptional Financial Need. The RFA notes that disadvantaged applicants also include *“individuals who come from a social, cultural, or educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that have demonstrably and recently directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career.”*