



NATIONAL BOARD FOR
CERTIFIED COUNSELORS®
AND AFFILIATES



Minority Fellowship Program Funding

We Are NBCC:

The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancing access to counseling and mental health resources worldwide through counselor certification, assessment, advocacy, and capacity building. NBCC established and administers the national certification system for professional counselors, ensuring that National Certified Counselors meet the established standards of practice through 1. Education, 2. Examination, 3. Supervision, and 4. Ethical Guidelines. Through our affiliate, the Center for Credentialing & Education (CCE), the organization also administers the examination program for state licensure and provides services to increase the efficiency of state and jurisdictional regulation.

Standards of Practice

1. Education
2. Examination
3. Supervision
4. Ethical Guidelines

What We Do:

- **Certify** counselors who meet rigorous education and experience standards.
- **Provide** high-quality assessments to ensure counselors are prepared to serve the public.
- **Advocate** for the importance and recognition of mental health counselors (MHCs) in various sectors.

Importance and Impact of Mental Health Counselors (MHCs):

- **Access to Care:** MHCs provide crucial mental health services to underserved populations, improving overall community health.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Studies indicate that MHCs can reduce overall health care costs by providing preventative mental health services. ¹
- **Quality of Care:** MHCs are trained to address a wide range of mental health issues, contributing to improved patient outcomes and satisfaction.
- **Workforce Needs:** Increasing MHC representation enhances the ability to serve low-income and rural communities effectively.

Our Request:

We urge the incorporation of the following key points into policy discussions to enhance support for U.S. consumers served by National Certified Counselors and mental health counselors. Approval of these policies will increase consumer access to services provided by counselors.

Minority Fellowship Program Funding

- **Adequate funding** for the Minority Fellowship Program is critical to increase the mental health workforce.
- **Research shows** that highly trained and competent care improves treatment outcomes, especially for underserved populations.²
- **The Minority Fellowship Program** accepts counselors from all racial/ethnic backgrounds, serving all communities, and its Fellows have made a significant impact in rural and urban areas of the country.

The NBCC Foundation administers two SAMHSA-funded fellowship programs.

- I. The NBCC Foundation Minority Fellowship Program for Addictions Counseling (NBCCF MFP-AC), in conjunction with NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals,** expands access to relevant and clinically appropriate addictions-related behavioral health care for underserved populations. The NBCCF MFP-AC reduces health disparities and improves health outcomes by increasing the pool of competent addictions counselors who are available to underserved populations in public and private nonprofit sectors.
- II. The NBCC Foundation Minority Fellowship Program for Mental Health Counseling (NBCCF MFP-MHC)** ensures that the behavioral health needs of all Americans are met, thereby reducing health disparities and improving overall community health and well-being. By strategically promoting and providing fellowships to master's-level counseling students, the NBCCF MFP strengthens the infrastructure that engages individuals in counseling and increases the number of professional counselors.

Fellowship funds are used for:

- training and professional development.
- staff support.
- fellowship stipends for graduate education.



Making a National Impact and Increasing Access to Care

Since 2013, the NBCC Foundation has awarded 1,100 fellowship awards.

These include:

- **288** MFP Mental Health Counseling (MFP-MHC) Doctoral Fellowships
- **365** MFP Mental Health Counseling (MFP-MHC) Master's Fellowships
- **447** MFP Addictions Counseling (MFP-AC) Master's Fellowships
- As of January 2025, the total amount of fellowships awarded (2013–2025) is \$15,277,000.

¹ Le, LK-D., Esturas, A. C., Mihalopoulos, C., Chiotelis, O., Bucholc, J., Chatterton, M. L., & Engel, L. (2021). Cost-effectiveness evidence of mental health prevention and promotion interventions: A systematic review of economic evaluations. *PLOS Medicine*, 18(5), e1003606. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1003606>

² Mongelli, F., Georgakopoulos, P., & Pato, M. T. (2020). Challenges and opportunities to meet the mental health needs of underserved and disenfranchised populations in the United States. *Focus (American Psychiatric Association)*, 18(1), 16–24. <https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.focus.20190028>