



# BOSTON COLLEGE

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

**Open Position:** Diversity Post-Doctoral Fellow  
National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD)

**Seeking Diversity Supplement Candidates for R01:** Research Program for Children and Adversity (RPCA) – *Refugee Behavioral Health Program*

**Principal Investigator:** Theresa S. Betancourt, Sc.D., M.A.,  
Salem Professor in Global Practice, RPCA Director  
School of Social Work, Boston College

### **Project summary:**

The Research Program for Children and Adversity (RPCA): Refugee Program is seeking a post-doc to support a community based participatory action research (CBPR) project on refugee mental health for the RPCA, a research program that focuses on the health and mental health of children and youth facing adversity. The portfolio includes a randomized controlled trial of a family home-visiting intervention to strengthen Somali Bantu and Bhutanese refugees resettled in Massachusetts and Maine.

Refugee children and families who are resettled in the United States face dramatic disparities in the incidence and treatment of mental health disorders. Resettlement stressors such as, poverty, limited access to care, differences in cultural norms, and discrimination often exacerbate risks due to war-related trauma exposure. As a result of war-related exposures and adjustment to a new living environment beset by numerous daily stressors, Somali Bantu and Bhutanese children, adolescents, and families face an increased risk of emotional/behavioral problems.

**Soliciting:** Candidates who might be interested in applying as a Diversity Fellow (must be US citizen or Green-card holder) to join. Particularly interested in people with a background in global mental health, implementation science in relation to interagency collaboration, and prior experience with large scale capacity building, in particular, in working with national and international institutions and government leadership. Must have solid quantitative skills; experience with qualitative data collection and analyses preferred. The program includes a mixed-methods approach, uses digital data collection platforms, and emphasizes translational research. The ideal candidate must be a self-starter and able to work independently. The position is based in Boston and will involve occasional travel to communities and partner agencies in New England.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must be US citizens or permanent residents.

NIH encourages institutions to diversify their student and faculty populations to enhance the participation of individuals from groups identified as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral and social sciences, such as:

- A. Individuals from racial and ethnic groups that have been shown by the National Science Foundation to be underrepresented in health-related sciences;
- B. Individuals with disabilities, who are defined as those with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities;
- C. Individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, defined as:
  1. Individuals who come from a family with an annual income below established low-income thresholds. These thresholds are based on family size, published by the U.S. Bureau of the Census; adjusted annually for changes in the Consumer Price Index; and adjusted by the Secretary for use in all health professions programs.



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2. Individuals who come from an educational environment such as that found in certain rural or inner-city environments that has demonstrably and directly inhibited the individual from obtaining the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop and participate in a research career. The disadvantaged background category (C1 and C2) refers to the financial and educational status of individuals while residing in the United States, and is only applicable to programs focused on high school and undergraduate candidates.

### **Qualifications:**

- Doctoral degree (required) in Public Health, Implementation Science, Social Work, Developmental Psychology, Mental Health, or other related field.
- The Fellow will need to be a self-driven, creative thinker with strong qualitative and statistical skills to help develop methods which investigate intervention effectiveness in terms of child development and parenting outcomes. Coursework/training in psychometrics and implementation science is a plus.
- Strong ability in use of advanced statistical and computational programming
- Training in implementation science to include hybrid design, cluster randomized control trials, longitudinal studies, and quality improvement approaches to fidelity and supervision that relate to long-term sustainability and scalability (preferred)
- Some background related to conducting research in culturally diverse contexts
- Publication record that demonstrates candidate's capacities is also desirable.
- Proficiency in utilizing computer applications including Microsoft Office, STATA, R, MAXQDA, and other applicable quantitative and qualitative data analysis platforms.
- Expert knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including implementation science, fidelity monitoring, and mixed methodology
- Understanding of the application of technology both for data collection as well as routine symptom monitoring, fidelity monitoring and quality improvement efforts in global mental health

### **Application Process:**

Qualified applicants will be asked to submit an application to NIH with mentorship and guidance from the Principal Investigator. The application process is competitive and funding is not guaranteed. Diversity supplements generally run 12 to 24 months at the discretion of the sponsor. The awards do not include funding for conducting original research outside the scope of the R01 project. The review process for the application can take up to six months.

**To express interest, please submit your CV and cover letter to the email address linked to  
[rpcalab\\_ssw@bc.edu](mailto:rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu)**

**Details on putting together an application for a diversity supplement to the RPCA R01 grant (Diversity Supplement funding is determined following NIMHD internal review):**

### **What kinds of plans are required with the application?**

The application requires three specific plans:

#### **Research Plan**

The Research Plan should present evidence that the proposed experience is appropriate for the stage of the individual's career, and that it will significantly enhance the individual's research potential, while furthering the individual's ability to pursue a research career.

Graduate, postdoctoral and investigator level candidates are expected to have defined research projects.



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Note: projects or specific aims deleted during the initial peer review of the parent grant may not be proposed as the research basis for research supplement support.

### Career Development Plan

Prepare a detailed Career Development Plan that will include objectives, benchmarks, and associated timelines.

Describe how the research experience will foster the research capabilities of the candidate and explain how the research experience is related to the research goals and objectives of the parent grant.

The Career Development Plan should also include plans for transition to the next stage of the candidate's career level. A projected timeline delineating specific research milestones and other activities that will be made in an attempt to secure independent research funding (i.e., anticipated publications, grantsmanship workshops, timeframe for grant submissions and type of independent research support the candidate seeks).

### Mentorship Plan

The Mentorship Plan should include:

- Guidance on preparation of oral scientific presentations
- Instructions on how to critically evaluate the literature and experimental design
- Training in scientific writing (including grant proposal preparation), such as manuscripts, abstracts;
- Instruction in responsible conduct of research and how to design experiments
- Guidance in the ethical conduct of research (including training in animal and human subjects' protection, if applicable)

### Interested Candidates are welcome contact our team with questions:

Jenna Berent, Refugee Program Manager, [berent@bc.edu](mailto:berent@bc.edu)

Jordan Farrar, Associate Director of Research, [farrarjb@bc.edu](mailto:farrarjb@bc.edu)

Theresa Betancourt, Principal Investigator, [rpcalab\\_ssw@bc.edu](mailto:rpcalab_ssw@bc.edu)

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