

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

David Stevenson and William Diaz Faculty Fellowship Program

Must candidates have permanent resident status in the U.S. or Canada?

No. One of the goals of these Fellowships is to have an impact upon communities of color within the United States and Canada. Candidates may have origins from any country but must be living and working at institutions in the United States or Canada.

Can research projects have an international focus?

Yes. The increasingly global perspective across all sectors of society suggests a wealth of knowledge to be gained and shared beyond national boundaries. Projects related to nonprofit/nongovernmental organizations, the nonprofit sector, nonprofit management and leadership, philanthropy, and other closely related topics are acceptable, regardless of the country or region where the study is taking place.

What does “related to nonprofit organizations, the nonprofit sector, nonprofit management and leadership, philanthropy, and other closely related topics” actually mean?

Research projects should have a clear focus on the nonprofit/nongovernmental and/or philanthropic dimensions of a topic. Creating or analyzing data about philanthropic activity or the nonprofit sector or theoretical research about the leadership, management, structure, and functions of nonprofit organizations are appropriate. Research related to a primary policy or content area, such as hunger, housing, education, etc. is not the goal of these fellowships. For example, a research project focused on improving volunteer recruitment and management for nonprofit housing organizations would be appropriate, but not research on how to build a better house.

What are the characteristics of a successful application?

A successful application will contain all of the requested components and articulate a clear and compelling research project grounded in theory with both theoretical and applied implications. Requests for implementation of an applied project will be less successful than those for rigorous, high-quality research that advances the nonprofit and philanthropic field of study and has potential impact on our understanding and the functioning of nonprofit organizations and philanthropy.

Can I apply to both Fellowships?

You may apply to both fellowships in the same cycle, but your applications should be for separate and distinct projects. Because the programmatic focus and qualifications of the David Stevenson and William Diaz Fellowships are different, we recommend that applicants choose only one of the fellowships to be considered for. If, in the course of its review and deliberations, the Selection Committee determines that a Stevenson or Diaz applicant might be more appropriately considered in one or the other Fellowship category, it reserves the right to move the candidate accordingly.

What were the areas of interest for David Stevenson and William Diaz?

David Stevenson was interested in the development of data and information systems related to the nonprofit sector, as well as the education of undergraduate students. William Diaz was interested in the development of minority leadership for nonprofit organizations, foundations, and the field of philanthropic and nonprofit management studies, as well as encouraging a better understanding of philanthropy from diverse communities.

What are the qualifications for each of the Fellowships?

The David Stevenson Fellowship is geared towards junior faculty members of color in tenure track positions. Doctoral candidates may also be considered for this award, however, priority consideration will be made for untenured, junior faculty over doctoral candidates. The William Diaz Fellowship will be awarded to faculty members of color at any rank, including senior faculty new to philanthropic and nonprofit management studies whose work focuses on philanthropy, nonprofits, and diversity. Additionally, since funds are distributed and managed through an applicant's institution, it is important that candidates have a secured position for their fellowship year.

How should I determine which Fellowship to apply to if my promotion status is scheduled to change after the application deadline and/or sometime during the Fellowship year?

All application material should be based on a candidate's qualifications at the time the application is submitted, regardless of the future timetable for promotions or completion of the Ph.D.

What if I'm new to this field?

Great! We're interested in building the field and encourage new scholars to develop research agenda and bodies of knowledge that will have an impact upon teaching, research, and practice. "New" does not necessarily mean young or at a junior faculty rank. Indeed, we encourage tenured faculty whose work has taken them in this new direction to consider applying.

What are allowable budget items?

Faculty Fellowship funds may be used to support research efforts, buy-out of teaching time, graduate assistant wages, educational materials, supplies, travel to conferences to present research findings, and expenses connected to professional education seminars. While funds may be used to purchase software, hardware purchases (e.g. laptops) do not apply. Also, NACC does not pay indirect costs for subgrants or awards it makes or for contract work being performed on its behalf. Only expenses directly related to a grant or award, or to contracted project work are allowed – a general overhead percentage or indirect costs are not allowed. We recommend that applicants work with their offices of grants or sponsored research in submitting a Fellowship application.