

FUND FOR SOCIAL POLICY EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

*Supported by the
Lois and Samuel Silberman Grant Fund
of the New York Community Trust*

Conversation Goals

- To introduce NADD's membership to this Initiative's mission, vision, values and calendar of activity
- To hear directly from Deans, Directors and Chairs – about how this Initiative relates to current priorities for schools and for the field
- To hear your ideas about how best to strengthen the manner in which all social workers are prepared to more effectively raise, analyze and address issues of poverty and inequality

Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of the Fund for Social Policy Education and Practice (FSPEP) with Q&A
- Discussion
- Next Steps

Overarching Initiative Aims and Status

Our Belief

- We believe that the social work profession could greatly improve the effectiveness of policy and service efforts designed to ameliorate persistent poverty and growing inequality, if all social workers were better prepared to understand and act on the policy implications of their work.

Initiative's Purpose and Approach

- Work in partnership with key social work and allied organizations to assess and act on opportunities for changes in undergraduate and graduate curriculum, field practice, research and career path development, so that social work students and practitioners become more cognizant of, and responsive to, the social policy context and climate of their work.

Initiative Activities

- Identify and make grants to support the planning and implementation of a few strategic social work education projects that will,
 - stimulate field-wide interest in the expansion of opportunities for social workers to engage in policy development, advocacy and human service planning that improve conditions or opportunities for individuals, groups and communities.
 - strengthen the manner in which social workers (all methods) are prepared to more effectively raise, analyze and address issues of poverty and inequality.
- Attract the necessary resources to institutionalize promising projects
- Engage in thought leadership – speak and write about the issue and represent the Initiative at meetings of relevant organizations and related venues
- Document and make visible the Initiative's activities and outcomes

Initiative Structure

- Time Frame is 2 years: 1.5.15 – 12.31.16
- **Advisory Committee** comprised of leaders of national organizations and other experts and practitioners
- Lightly Staffed
- **Housed at the Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College, CUNY in NYC**
- Initial Grantmaking Investment of \$700K
- **Partnership with Other Funders**
- Transition of strategic projects to institutional partners

Advisory Committee

- **Dr. Katharine V. Byers**, Associate Professor Emerita and Chair, Influencing State Policy, Indiana University School of Social Work
- **Dr. Darla Spence Coffey**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Council on Social Work Education
- **Dr. Larry E. Davis**, Dean & Donald M. Henderson Professor, Director, Center on Race and Social Problems, School of Social Work, University of Pittsburgh
- **Dr. Nancy A. Humphreys**, Professor of Policy Practice Emerita and Founder, Nancy A. Humphreys Institute for Political Social Work, University of Connecticut School of Social Work
- **Dr. Kilolo Kijakazi**, Institute Fellow, Urban Institute
- **Dr. Angelo McClain**, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
- **Dr. Jacqueline B. Mondros**, Dean and Professor, Silberman School of Social Work, Hunter College of CUNY, & Chair, National Association of Deans and Directors
- **Lorie A. Slutsky**, President, The New York Community Trust
- **Mildred Thompson**, Senior Director, PolicyLink, Director, PolicyLink Center for Health Equity and Place
- **Dr. Edwina Uehara**, Professor and Ballmer Endowed Dean in Social Work, University of Washington School of Social Work

Discussion

Questions

- Is the issue of policy and its linkage to practice and research an emerging topic at your school or for the field?
- What does that interest look like at your school and what are you doing about it?
- What additional changes would be productive?

Emerging Program Strategy

Population of Concern

- All social work students
- Social work students pursuing policy careers
- People already working in the field

Emerging Ideas About Criteria

- Will give visibility and status to the issue – includes plans for generating awareness about the work
- Expands opportunity where there is less capacity
- Augments work already in motion
- Taps the energy of '*coalition of the willing*'
- Moves complementary work on parallel tracks to get to synergy & Involves work across degree types (MSW, PhD, BSW levels)
- Meaningful progress can be achieved within the two year time frame
- Grants provided meet need and are developed with partners who have 'skin in the game', i.e., who contribute needed resources to the project

Emerging Ideas about Criteria

- Fosters more coordination of resources and helps to connect disparate compatible efforts
- Invests in *existing expertise*, those doing it well
- Fosters integrated approaches in which work on one project will support the outcomes of work on another, and there is coordination
- Lifts up models
- Creates opportunity for people engaged in complimentary work to engage and exchange
- Creates particular capacity for programs at small colleges, and public colleges and universities
- Provides opportunity for general, foundational support for advancing improvements in social work education in relationship to social policy, rather than issue-focused support.

Potential Areas of Action

- Faculty Development and Curriculum Tools
- Generating Buzz and Establishing Incentives and Awards
- Field Placement Pilots and Other Models Of Student Development, e.g., Institutes
- Partnerships With Policy Shops and Allied Organizations Including Community Organizing Groups, Advocacy Organizations and Labor
- Clarifying Language, Standards, and Definitions and Establishing Benchmarks

Next Steps