



**VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV) Postdoctoral Fellowship at VA VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC) & Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai**



**Overview:** The VA National Center on Homelessness among Veterans (NCHAV) and VA Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) have created a postdoctoral fellowship track within the Advanced Fellowship in Mental Illness Research and Treatment at the VISN 2 MIRECC for those interested in recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless, criminal justice involved, or at risk for homelessness or criminal justice involvement. The NCHAV Fellowship Track seeks to train and develop the next generation of researchers and change agents working with this population. This track is open to clinicians or non-clinicians with a doctoral degree or who have completed all requirements toward a doctoral degree from an accredited institution. Individualized, mentored research and clinical training is combined with a state-of-the-art curriculum that emphasizes research methods, statistics, epidemiology, mental health systems, quality improvement methods, education, and service delivery. In collaboration with their mentors, Fellows will develop an independent line of research, including but not limited to developing and implementing a research project, publishing and presenting findings, participating in grant writing, and utilizing the latest technology for educational activities and clinical service delivery. Fellows can apply for small grants of up to \$10,000 to collect pilot data through our internal pilot funding program.

Fellows will have a formal connection with NCHAV and operational partners and be on the cutting-edge of the latest research, policy, and education developments in Veteran homelessness/criminal justice involvement. They will be expected to work with a NCHAV mentor along with a local mentor at the VISN 2 Mental Illness Research, Education, and Clinical Center (MIRECC). NCHAV Fellows across sites will have opportunities to interact with one another and collaborate on projects. NCHAV promotes recovery-oriented care for Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness. NCHAV conducts and supports research; assesses the effectiveness of programs; identifies and disseminates best practices and integrates these practices into policies, programs, and services for homeless or at-risk Veterans; and serves as a resource center for all research and training activities carried out by the Department and by other Federal and non-Federal entities with respect to Veteran homelessness.

**Faculty:** Fellows in the NCHAV track works with a mentor at NCHAV and a local site mentor at the VISN 2 MIRECC. Within the VA system, Veteran justice issues fall under the umbrella of homelessness research and services. Veteran justice issues are therefore a partial focus of NCHAV and a potential focus of the NCHAV postdoctoral fellowship track. The VISN 2 MIRECC Veterans Justice Lab, led by Dr. Emily Edwards, is excited to offer specialized opportunities and training for professionals interested in the NCHAV postdoctoral fellowship track. Research within the Veterans Justice Lab focuses broadly on identification and management of risk factors for Veteran justice involvement, homelessness, and suicide. Fellows can expect to develop skills in program development and evaluation; analysis of large, epidemiological datasets; complex statistical analysis; all aspects of research project development, execution, interpretation, and dissemination; interdisciplinary care coordination; and clinical intervention with at-risk Veterans. Those interested in learning more about the Veterans Justice Lab are encouraged to contact Dr. Emily Edwards at [Emily.Edwards5@va.gov](mailto:Emily.Edwards5@va.gov). Persons with a history of military service, demonstrated interest in working with Veteran, forensic, and/or at-risk persons, and/or from underrepresented groups are especially encouraged to apply.

Research areas of expertise and interest among the faculty include using neuroimaging, psychophysiology, and molecular biological techniques to better understand the neurobiology of serious mental illness and suicide; identification of suicide and psychosis risk in veterans transitioning out of the military; development and evaluation of psychosocial and behavioral interventions for serious mental illness and suicide; and implementation science to promote evidence-based practices. More information on our MIRECC, the fellowship, and faculty research areas is available by scanning the QR code at the top of page 1 or visiting [our website](#). Fellows' mentorship can also include other faculty from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai [Department of Psychiatry](#).

**Telework:** Telework is available although this is not a fully virtual position. Fellows must live within commuting distance to the Bronx, NY. We have adapted training activities to be conducted remotely, when possible, and will collaborate with fellows so that they can meet their training needs.

**Start Day:** The start day is flexible. The fellowship will begin between July 1st and October 1st, 2025.

**Stipend and Benefits:** Annual stipend is based on standardized rate schedules and range from approximately \$61,548 to \$101,250 depending on educational background. Benefits include health insurance, life insurance, 13 paid vacation days and 13 paid sick days per year, 11 paid federal holidays, travel to one conference each year fully paid, and public transit fare benefit to offset commuting costs.

**Eligibility:** Psychologist applicants must be U.S. citizens, hold a doctorate from an APA-accredited program in clinical or counseling psychology, and be enrolled in or have completed an APA-accredited internship in clinical or counseling psychology. Doctoral requirements, including dissertation, must be completed before the start of fellowship. Psychiatrist applicants must have completed ACGME-accredited residency training, be board-eligible or board-certified, and have an active, unrestricted U.S. license to practice medicine. International medical graduates must also have a current visa and an ECFMG certificate that is valid indefinitely. Applicants on a J-1 visa must have current ECFMG sponsorship as well.

**Application Due Date:** Applications are due **December 15, 2024**.

**How to Apply:**

***For Psychologists,*** the program is using the APPA CAS (APPIC Psychology Postdoctoral Application) online system. To be directed to our specific program in APPA CAS, [click here](#). For more information about the application process please go to <https://www.appic.org/Postdocs/APPA-CAS-Postdoc-Application-Information>.

***For Other Professionals,*** please email the application directly to Dr. Chi Chan at [Chi.Chan1@va.gov](mailto:Chi.Chan1@va.gov).

Applicants are asked to submit the following documents:

- A letter of interest that includes: (1) career goals and how these align with the mission of the VISN 2 MIRECC; (2) preferred primary research mentor(s) and how the applicant's education, research, and clinical experience aligns well with this mentor's research program (3) the research and clinical skills that applicant would like to hone during Fellowship
- A current curriculum vitae
- A signed letter of completion or expected completion from graduate or residency program stating the accreditation status of the program (and doctoral internship)
- Three letters of recommendation
- Graduate/medical school transcripts
- Writing sample

**Selection Process:** The selection process for candidates is based largely on the match between the applicant's research interests and career goals with the research expertise of mentors and opportunities at the VISN 2 MIRECC. A close working relationship with identified mentors allows our Fellows to maximize their productivity and develop a successful career trajectory. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their preferred mentors early in the application process. We have a systematic process for reviewing and ranking applicants.

**Our fellowship is an equal opportunity training program.** We encourage applications from qualified candidates of all backgrounds including but not limited to veterans, ethnic/racial minorities, women, sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, and individuals with personal lived experience with serious mental illness.

Please contact the Fellowship Director, Dr. Chi Chan, with any additional questions at [chi.chan1@va.gov](mailto:chi.chan1@va.gov).