

The Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT) Program

Application Information - RIBHT Cohort C

Priority Date for Applications 12/9/19; Standard Deadline 1/15/2020

Funded by HRSA M01HP31391

Project Director: Carrie W. Rishel, MSW, PhD, Carrie.Rishel@mail.wvu.edu

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The *Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT)* program will support 25 MSW students in Cohort C (2020-2021) to focus their training on integrated behavioral health practice across the lifespan.

Trainees funded under the RIBHT will receive \$10,000 in stipend support for completing their advanced field placement within the WVU MSW program. All MSW students/applicants with anticipated graduation date of May 2021 are eligible to apply for Cohort C of the RIBHT program.

More detailed information about the program is provided on pages 2 and 3 of this packet.

To apply, please email: 1) a cover letter expressing your interest in the program and 2) a current resume to Sara Guthrie, the RIBHT Graduate Assistant at: sg0067@mix.wvu.edu by **Monday December 9, 2019 (11:59PM)** for the priority date or **Wednesday January 15, 2020 (11:59PM)** for the standard date. To be given priority, current WVU social work students should apply by 12/9/19. On your cover letter include your **contact information and WVU identification number**. In your cover letter, please also address the following:

- **Interest in integrated behavioral health practice**
- **Whether you are interested in the specialized RIBHT emphasis focused on opioid and other substance use disorders prevention and treatment (5 of the 25 spots for this emphasis)**
- **Future career goals**
- **How the stipend provided through the RIBHT will support your learning needs/goals**

Finalists for RIBHT trainee positions will be asked to participate in a brief interview with Drs. Rishel and Hartnett as a final step in the selection process. These interviews will occur early in the spring semester of 2020. Final selections will be made by mid-semester.

Those accepted as RIBHT trainees will commit to participate in/complete:

- Advanced Field Placement in an approved site with opportunity for behavioral health practice
- RIBHT required coursework as part of MSW degree plan
- Interprofessional mini-workshop series (2 per semester) & one larger spring workshop
- Group presentation at WV-NASW annual spring conference in trainee's advanced year
- RIBHT program evaluation activities

Advantages to participation in the RIBHT include the following:

- Specialized field placements in behavioral health settings that emphasize integrated models of service delivery and foster trainee connection with leaders in the local service delivery system
- Enrollment in a customized MSW curriculum plan focused on preparation for integrated behavioral health practice across the lifespan
- Specialized skills training in targeted areas of behavioral health practice through a monthly mini-workshop series, annual workshop, and participation at the WVNASW spring conference
- Individualized mentorship, professional networking opportunities, leadership development, and employment placement support
- \$10,000 in stipend support throughout the advanced field placement.

The Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT) Program Overview
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The state of West Virginia faces a shortage of behavioral health care providers to meet the growing needs of underserved populations in rural areas. There is broad consensus across the state regarding the need to increase workforce capacity in the area of behavioral health services. The purpose of the ***Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT)*** program is to prepare MSW students for behavioral health practice, with a focus on integrated and culturally appropriate rural service delivery.

The WVU School of Social Work has supported the state's efforts to build a qualified behavioral health workforce. We have been active since 2012 in preparing MSW students for integrated behavioral health practice through the *Integrated Mental and Behavioral Health Training Program (IMBTP)*. The IMBTP was initially developed and implemented in 2012, following an award of a Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training (MBHET) grant from HRSA. The program was later expanded with the support of a subsequent HRSA 2014 Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) grant. A new, 2017, BHWET grant from HRSA funds the current behavioral health training program.

The new program, called the ***Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT)*** program, **provides \$10,000 in stipend support for advanced field placement** to 20 MSW students per year to focus their studies on integrated behavioral health practice across the lifespan. Supplemental funding awarded in 2018 will support an additional 5 students per year for two years with \$10,000 stipend support to focus their RIBHT training on opioid and other substance use disorder prevention and treatment. These 5 students will complete advanced placement at a collaborating health center site (Community Care of WV) with a focused experience on substance abuse prevention and treatment, and participate in specialized training workshops. The RIBHT program emphasizes prevention and clinical interventions for behavioral health conditions across the lifespan with particular focus on integration with primary care, interprofessional and team-based care approaches, and family and community involvement in prevention and treatment. Opportunities for students in the training program include specialized coursework and field placements, interprofessional training workshops targeting skill development for integrated behavioral health practice, intensive mentoring, and leadership development. Training for field placement supervisors, agency staff, and students and faculty across various health professions at WVU will also be provided.

Graduates of the RIBHT will increase the number of behavioral health providers in the state and region, and provide needed behavioral health services for rural populations across the lifespan. Integrated models of service delivery are emphasized throughout RIBHT training, with interprofessional collaboration as a key component. Models of service delivery examined include: 1) Integrated behavioral health and primary care services; 2) Integrated prevention and treatment services; 3) Integrated child and family services; 4) Integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment; and 5) Integrated school and community services.

The Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT) Program Components

The Rural Integrated Behavioral Health Training (RIBHT) program consists of the following core elements:

1. **Specialized Field Placements in Behavioral Health Settings:** RIBHT placement sites will offer: 1) experiential learning in behavioral health practice; 2) exposure to integrated service delivery; 3) interprofessional collaboration and teamwork; 4) a focus on practice with high need populations in rural areas; and 5) strong mentorship by field instructors and connection with leaders in the local service delivery system. The stipend support included in the RIBHT may offset the student travel costs to more distant and rural field sites, opening up placement opportunities that would otherwise not be feasible.

2. **Customized Curriculum:** RIBHT trainees will complete customized coursework focusing on integrated behavioral health practice within the MSW degree plan. The courses below fulfill the 6 credits of electives as required for the MSW degree.
 - **SOWK 627 Advanced Practice in Integrated Healthcare** (Required for all RIBHT Trainees)

 - **SOWK 626 Child Mental Health: Promotion, Prevention, and Treatment OR SOWK 675 Addiction and Social Work Practice** (RIBHT trainees choose 1 of these 2; trainees in the supplemental program focused on substance use disorders will take the Addiction and SW Practice course)

3. **Specialized Training in Targeted Areas of Behavioral Health Practice:** Skills-focused training will be provided in three ways:
 - a. Mini-workshop series (2 per semester) with trainees, field instructors, agency staff, and other graduate students and faculty from across WVU; trainees in the supplemental program focused on substance use disorders will participate in a separate training series specific to this area of practice
 - b. Annual spring workshop targeting a specific area of skill development for integrated behavioral health practice. This workshop will be free of charge to RIBHT trainees, field instructors, agency staff, and WVU faculty and students.
 - c. Trainees will attend and present at the WVNASW annual spring conference at the end of their advanced year.

4. **Mentorship, Leadership Development, Professional Networking, and Employment Placement Support:** Drs. Rishel and Hartnett will maintain frequent communication with all students in the RIBHT and serve as their formal advisor and faculty field liaison for advanced field within the MSW program. Drs. Rishel and Hartnett will mentor the trainees in the development of the NASW presentation as part of their field seminar work and promote leadership development, professional networking opportunities, and connection with potential employers throughout the program.