Scholarship for Districts in Top 20% for Suspension or Expulsion Rates or Racial Disproportionality in Discipline

Loyola University Chicago invites applications for scholarships to participate in Loyola’s innovative Online School Discipline Reform Certificate program. This interdisciplinary certificate program is jointly offered by Loyola’s School of Education and School of Law. The program consists of four courses and eight credits and can be completed in one school year. A limited number of scholarships are available for districts identified in 2018 by the Illinois State Board of Education as in the top 20% of school districts in the state with high rates of out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and/or racial disproportionality in school discipline for the past three school years.

Program: The program offers the following courses: (1) Restorative Justice, (2) System Consultation in School Discipline Reform, (3) Legal Issues in School Discipline, and (4) School Discipline Reform: Linking Law, Policy and Practice. Participants must attend an in-person weekend immersion in Restorative Practices, which will take place from August 4-6, 2019 at Loyola University Chicago (there is also a January 2019 option for those not available). More information is available at LUC.edu/schooldiscipline.

Scholarship Focus: Recipients of this scholarship would (1) receive training in restorative practices, (2) develop and conduct a needs assessment related to school discipline practices in their school, (3) implement an applied restorative justice project, (4) draft or revise a school policy or procedure to support the effective implementation of restorative practices, and (5) develop and begin to implement a 3-5 year action plan to expand restorative practices in their school. This training directly benefits the scholarship recipients and the schools and districts they serve.

Selection criteria: School administrators or staff must apply in cohorts of two to four from the same school. Recipients will be selected for scholarships to participate in this certificate program based on demonstrated interest in implementing restorative practices in their school or district, high poverty rates or other indicators of vulnerability among the student populations they serve, and the need and interest of their school or district in implementing restorative practices. They will also be asked to develop a case study of their journey in implementing restorative practices to be used as a resource for other schools and districts seeking to learn from their experience.

Benefits: Tuition in the program is reduced by two separate scholarships: (1) a $1,884 cohort scholarship offered to each student when two or more enroll in the program from the same school or district; and (2) a separate scholarship of up to $5000 per student. With these scholarships, tuition for the 2019-2020 school year is reduced from $9,476 to as low as $2,592 per student.

Application process:

- Visit LUC.edu/schooldiscipline to apply to the certificate program. In your essay, please indicate your specific interest in developing skills to implement and/or expand the use of restorative practices in your school. Each member of the cohort must apply separately.
- A representative of the cohort must also submit a scholarship application here. The application includes (1) a description of how your cohort meets the selection criteria outlined above, and (2) an e-mail or letter from district office, school principal or other appropriate personnel indicating the support of the district or school for the cohort to participate in the program and document the outcomes of their work as a case study that can be shared.
- Applications are due by July 10.

For more information, e-mail EdLaw-Institute@luc.edu or call the Civitas ChildLaw Center at (312) 915-6481.