



## **2015 DHS Fellows Program in Population and Health for University Faculty from Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, or Zimbabwe**

ICF International is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for the 2015 round of The Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Fellows Program. The DHS Fellows Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is designed to increase the capacity of countries to conduct further analysis of DHS data. The primary objectives of the program are:

- To teach Fellows to analyze DHS datasets, produce result tables, and conduct research with DHS data;
- To strengthen skills that Fellows will use to integrate DHS data in teaching;
- To increase the ability of Fellows to build the capacity for using DHS data at their home universities

### **Eligibility and Requirements**

Applications must be from teams comprised of three faculty members from the same university who teach in departments of demography, public health, economics, sociology, geography, or other social sciences. Applications are only being accepted from faculty members at universities in Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, or Zimbabwe. All team members must be based full-time at the home university.

Teams must include one senior<sup>1</sup> faculty member. All three team members must be available to attend two workshops organized by ICF International, one at the beginning and one toward the end of the program (see anticipated timeline below). Each fellow must bring a laptop loaded with Stata and/or SPSS for the duration of each workshop. Individuals who have already participated in a DHS data analysis workshop conducted by ICF International are not eligible. However, individuals who have only participated in a Service Provision Assessment (SPA) or geographic information systems (GIS) workshop facilitated by ICF International are still eligible to apply.

Each team will also be expected to jointly complete a publishable-quality manuscript on policy-relevant questions that are primarily related to one or more of the following topic areas: HIV/AIDS, sexual behavior, family planning, fertility, reproductive health, or gender issues. Papers must primarily use data from DHS, SPA, or AIDS Indicator Surveys.

In addition, each team will be expected to design a plan for building capacity in the use of DHS data for teaching and research to be implemented at their home universities and report back on implementation prior to completion of the program.

The language for the program is English. Completed manuscripts that meet the required standards will be published by ICF International in their Working Paper series. Fellows will be encouraged to submit their completed papers to a peer-reviewed journal for publication.

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<sup>1</sup> A senior faculty member is defined as someone who: (1) Currently holds or has previously held a senior position at the university such as Head of Department, Dean of School/Faculty, Director of an Institute, and/or (2) Associate Professor (or equivalent) or higher.

## Anticipated Timeline

<b>December 1, 2014</b>	Applications due
<b>Early January 2015</b>	Selected candidates are notified.
<b>March 16-27, 2015</b>	First two-week workshop to be held in an African country to prepare Fellows to use DHS datasets, refine research questions, and start data analysis.
<b>April 21, 2015</b>	Fellows submit interim drafts of their paper and capacity-building plan to ICF.
<b>May 12-21, 2015</b>	Second workshop to be held in an African country for Fellows to finalize their capacity-building plans and papers for publication. Fellows will be required to prepare and make brief presentations.
<b>June 22, 2015</b>	Fellows submit final papers and capacity-building plans to ICF. Corresponding author responds to reviews and edits throughout the publication process.
<b>September 1, 2015</b>	Fellows report back on capacity-building activities implemented at their home universities.

## Awards

The DHS Fellows Program for 2015 will select four to six teams based primarily on the merits of their research proposal and on the applicants' potential for building the capacity of their home university to use DHS data. Additional factors considered will be gender balance and previous experience using Stata or SPSS software.

Each selected fellow will be awarded a \$3,000 stipend to cover his or her research expenses, which will be paid in installments based upon satisfactory completion of the deliverables. In addition, ICF International will cover economy airfare from the home university in Africa, lodging, and per diem expenses for each fellow to attend both workshops at a location in Africa. Teams may be eligible for a small additional stipend payment to cover expenses associated with preparing their paper for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

## Application Procedure

**Each team should submit a single application that contains the following items in pdf format:**

1. A brief, original *research proposal* (3 to 4 pages), clearly outlining the research question(s), scope of analysis, and how DHS, AIS, or SPA data will be used to answer these questions. Please describe the potential policy significance of the proposed study and how it relates to the scientific literature.
2. A brief *plan for internal capacity-building* (1 to 2 pages) that describes realistic activities the applicants will undertake during the fellowship; these activities should enable fellows to pass on knowledge and skills learned through the program to students and faculty at their home university. The brief description of each proposed activity should include a summary of objective, target group, timing, and measurement of progress or outcome.
3. In addition, the joint application should include the following from each team member:
  - a. A brief (<1 page) personal statement from each applicant that includes:
    - i. Prior experience working with DHS data
    - ii. Current level of proficiency in using SPSS and/or Stata
    - iii. Information on the courses the applicant is teaching
    - iv. Research areas she/he plans to explore in the next five years
  - b. A curriculum vitae with complete contact information, a list of publications, and names and contact information for three references
  - c. Proof of status as a current university faculty member and duration of employment

If selected, each candidate will be asked to provide evidence, such as a letter of approval from their department chairperson, that the university/department agrees to her/his participation in the fellowship program, including full-time participation in both workshops.

Applications are due no later than **December 1, 2014**.

### **Contact Information**

Please send applications to: Ms. Toni Jones, International Health and Development Division, ICF International, 530 Gaither Road Suite 500, Rockville, MD USA 20850. Email: [toni.jones@icfi.com](mailto:toni.jones@icfi.com).

For information on Demographic and Health Surveys, AIDS Indicator Surveys, and Service Provision Assessment Surveys, visit [www.dhsprogram.com](http://www.dhsprogram.com).