

your proposed project undertakes research in an area not covered by previous research or proposes to look at a previously studied research topic in a new and different way. Reviewers will look at the clarity and compelling nature of the case you make for this project in the context of the existing literature and knowledge base for that topic.

**Rating Factor 3: Approach (40 total points).** (a) *Appropriateness of your Methodology and Approach to the Research Topic (25 points).* In reviewing this factor, NRC will determine the extent to which your research design and methodology are likely to produce data and information that will successfully answer your research hypothesis. NRC will also evaluate the extent to which the methodology you propose to use is sound and generally accepted by the relevant research community. Reviewers will be looking at the extent to which you use standard methodological practices in line with research already completed or existing publications in the field related to your research questions. Applicants that focus on one of the HUD policy priorities listed above for this year will receive higher points.

(b) *Plan for Timely Completion of Your Research Project (10 points).* In reviewing this factor, NRC will determine the extent to which your research design and methodology and plan for completion of your research project can feasibly be completed within the 15-month fellowship period. Applications that propose extremely complex and time-consuming data collection efforts (e.g., major longitudinal studies or a very large number of site visits within the grant period) will be determined to be less feasible for completion within the allowed time frame. For example, if you propose a methodology based on information that may not be publicly available until after the end of the grant period (e.g., census information), or a data collection plan that will take longer than the time you have allowed for it, you will get a lower score than if you have presented a time line and methodology that show evidence that the research project can be completed within the grant period.

(c) *Quality of the Mentoring Plan (5 points).* In reviewing this factor, NRC will determine the appropriateness of the person chosen to be your mentor in terms of his/her previous work, (e.g., research, publications, presentations, standing in the research community, and availability) and the role the mentor has agreed to play in your project. The more time the mentor commits to you,

the greater the number of points you will receive.

**Rating Factor 4: Leveraging/Commitment of the University (10 points).** In reviewing this factor, NRC will determine the extent of the commitment of your university, beyond that required in Section IV (C)(1). The quality of your institution's commitment, in terms of its furthering your research project, will also be evaluated under this factor. For example, your university could propose to cover the cost of a graduate assistant to work on your research project in order to demonstrate its commitment beyond what is minimally required. The larger the commitment, translated into dollar terms, the higher the points. Full points may only be received if your institution designates a faculty adviser and agrees to reduce your course load by one course per semester or term while it continues paying your full salary.

**Rating Factor 5: Relevance of Your Research to HUD's Strategic Goals (15 points).** In reviewing this factor, NRC will determine the extent to which your proposed research project will produce policy-relevant information that is directly related to one or more of the strategic goals listed above (i.e., the research could improve the effectiveness of HUD's programs and policies and the ability to achieve the stated goals). The less directly related to one of these goals your research project is, the fewer points you will receive. For example, a study of minorities' housing choice decisions would have high relevance to HUD's strategic goals; a study of transportation inequities would have medium relevance; and a study of the effects of global warming on urban development would have low relevance. In addition, this factor reflects HUD's goal to embrace high standards of ethics, management, and accountability and measures your commitment to assess your performance to achieve your proposed research agenda's outcome and/or objective. NRC will evaluate the extent to which you identify activities, outcomes, benchmarks, and performance indicators that will describe how performance will be measured. This information should be provided in a Logic Model format. This form number can be found under the "Additional Required Assurance and Certification" section of this NOFA.

(F) *Selections.* HUD will fund applications in rank order, until it has awarded all available funds. However, as noted in Section II, HUD reserves the right to make awards for less than the amount requested in your application. After all application selections have

been made, HUD may require that you participate in negotiations to determine the specific terms of the fellowship and the grant budget. In cases where HUD cannot successfully complete negotiations, or you fail to provide HUD with requested information, an award will not be made. In such instances, HUD may elect to offer an award to the next highest-ranking applicant, and proceed with negotiations with that applicant.

## V. Application Submission Requirements

Your application should include an original and one copy of the items in the order listed below. All pages should be numbered. All applications must be submitted on 8½ by 11-inch paper, double-spaced on one side of the paper, and printed in a standard 12-point font. Please do not exceed the page limits described below. Submitting pages in excess of the page limit will not disqualify your application but the information will not be considered, which may result in a lower score.

(A) *Evidence of your eligibility.* A letter must be submitted from your faculty chairperson containing the following: (1) Confirmation that you received a doctoral degree no earlier than January 1998; (2) verification of your appointment to a tenure-track or teaching or research position extending beyond the 15-month duration of this fellowship; (3) verification of your U.S. citizenship or evidence of your resident alien status; and (4) the university's name, department, mailing address, telephone, facsimile number, and e-mail address.

(B) *Abstract* (one page). You must include a summary that describes your proposed research project.

(C) *Response to Rating Factors.*

(1) *Rating Factor 1—Capacity to do the Research*

(a) A curriculum vita that contains the following:

(1) Your graduate and post-graduate educational background.

(2) A list of your publications: books, refereed journal articles, chapters contributed to books, articles in published proceedings, and any other articles.

(3) A list of text and poster presentations made during the last five years.

(4) Grants and awards received during the last five years.

(5) Teaching load during the last five years.

(b) A one-page abstract of your dissertation.

(c) Two letters of reference.