



2023-24 Extramural Mentored Fellowship
Call for Applications – Due February 8, 2023
[Apply Online](#)

The University of Wisconsin-Madison [Center for Financial Security's](#) (CFS) *Extramural Mentored Fellowship* is an interdisciplinary training program providing mentored fellowships in the field of retirement and disability research to early career researchers. Funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA) through CFS' [Retirement and Disability Research Consortium](#) (RDRC), it provides extramural fellowships for junior faculty (those who are non-tenured), postdoctoral researchers, or those in dissertator status.

The 2023-24 Fellow will conduct research on topics related to Social Security, retirement, and disability policy, especially focused on economically vulnerable populations. The fellow is to produce a Working Paper that conforms to SSA standards, along with an accompanying Policy Abstract and Research Brief, and to submit quarterly progress reports throughout the project.

Our goal is to produce high-quality research relevant to Social Security programs, policies and/or beneficiaries, as well as to develop early career researchers who can become principal investigators in the retirement and disability research fields. This fellowship will provide both funding and mentoring for scholars with an interest in applied research within the RDRC focal areas. The fellow will work in collaboration with CFS faculty, and other affiliated mentors.

Award

This is a 12-month fellowship, generally aligned to the federal fiscal year. In 2023-24, the stipend for this fellowship will be \$45,000. Start date to be negotiated, but preferably no later than August 22, 2023. Fellows will have access to travel support (as appropriate and as permitted by UW-Madison travel policies), and to CFS researchers and events, including the RDRC Annual Meeting, along with the aforementioned mentorship.

Proposal

Applicants should submit a proposal for a research project, which falls within one or more of the themes below, and is in alignment with recent [RDRC focal areas](#). The proposed project will result in a working paper for SSA as well as a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer review journal; and must address how SSA can use the results of the study.

1. Interactions between public assistance and social insurance programs, particularly Social Security programs, over the life course
2. The role of health and health insurance as it affects retirement and/or disability, or its impact on the financial security of economically vulnerable households
3. How economically vulnerable households combine work, pensions, and social insurance programs to secure consumption over lifetimes
4. Low-net-wealth households and retirement well-being, including the role of housing wealth, non-retirement savings, and debt.
5. The impact of the pandemic on financially vulnerable populations, and/or the impact of COVID on Social Security programs, recipients or policies.



All proposals should include specific research questions and the proposed data to answer these questions. The potential findings should **clearly articulate relevance** for policymakers, specifically with respect to Social Security beneficiaries and programs, as well as contribute to the broader retirement and disability research literature. A discussion of how this work is an extension of current/existing research and/or how the work creates opportunities for future projects should also be included. Applicants should describe their interest and experience in social insurance and/or retirement and disability research; their experiences working with data in applied research; and propose and discuss the research question(s) they will study as part of this project.

Eligibility

An ideal candidate will have strong quantitative and writing skills; advanced knowledge of quantitative sociology, demography, biostatistics, or econometric methods with large survey and/or administrative data; and training or interest in issues relating to retirement and disability. Suitable backgrounds include Economics, Policy/Policy Analysis, Demography, Public Health, Sociology and other related fields. Applicants should be non-tenured junior faculty, postdoctoral researchers, or those in dissertator status. Please note that **applicants may apply to more than one CFS funding opportunity**. Applicants should complete an application for each opportunity that is of interest.

Application Materials

Applicants should describe their interest in the RDRC, social insurance and the social safety net; their experiences working with data in applied research; and propose and discuss the research question(s) they would like to study as part of the fellowship. Along with their CV, applicants will need to submit the following:

- ✓ *Cover Letter* (1 page) describing your research interests and how you see this fellowship supporting your development as a scholar of retirement and disability research
- ✓ *Equity Statement* (1 page) describing your personal commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion through your research, teaching or service.
- ✓ *Letter of Recommendation* from an advisor, mentor, or senior colleague
- ✓ *Working paper* or published paper on which you are primary author
- ✓ *Research Prospectus* (3 pages) that will be the focus of their work, and includes
 - Proposed Project Title
 - Abstract (200 words)
 - Brief background on the proposed topics (250 words)
 - Research questions to be explored, how they connect to the CFS RDRC themes, and significance of your research
 - Proposed data sources, methods section and discussion of the techniques you will use in your analysis to answer the central research questions
 - How this work fits into the scholar's development (250 words max.)
 - The proposed research papers and other related work that could emerge from project
 - The relevance of your research for the field, for policy makers, and for the public
 - The scholar's goals and mentoring support needs during the fellowship

Application Submission

For full consideration, submit your application by 11:59 PST on **February 8, 2023**. Submit online [here](#). Further application details and a full list of funding opportunities are online at



<https://cfsrdrc.wisc.edu/training>. You may apply to more than one CFS funding opportunity. Applicants should complete an application for each opportunity that is of interest.

Application Scoring

All applications will be reviewed by a panel of scholars from CFS, SSA or RDRC programs. Applications will be reviewed based on the following criteria and weights:

- Research prospectus and capability (50%)
- Equity, diversity and inclusion statement (20%)
- Writing and communication capability (15%)
- Recommendation letter (15%)

All projects will also be subject to review and approval by SSA program officials before Fellow is named.

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