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**Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago  
Announce Fellowships for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Chicago, IL. April 14, 2010 – The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago, a research center focused on child and family policy, launched the *Doris Duke Fellowships for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* for doctoral and dissertation students. This new program aims to identify and nurture promising leaders in child abuse prevention.

Fellows can be based at any academic institution in the U.S. and will be selected through an open national competition. Because the prevention of child maltreatment requires knowledge and collaboration from diverse fields, the program is multidisciplinary in scope and approach. Its range of academic disciplines includes but is not limited to social work, public health, medicine, public policy, education, and economics. Fellows will work on a variety of issues such as: designing programs that attract and retain the most vulnerable families; creating strategies that better connect public and private efforts; and applying empirical evidence to improve practice and policy.

“We hope that with its national reach and multidisciplinary approach, the Doris Duke Fellowships program will foster unique contributions that address the many opportunities and needs in child abuse prevention, a field that is gaining momentum across the country,” said Francie Zimmerman, program officer for the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation’s Child Abuse Prevention Program. “Fellows will benefit from Chapin Hall’s expertise as they participate in this robust learning experience.”

Professional development is a critical part of the fellows’ experience. Selected fellows will be mentored by leaders in the field and professors with pertinent expertise, participate in a collegial network for fellows, attend an annual knowledge sharing meeting, and take part in presentation and training opportunities. The fellowships program seeks to build a sustainable peer learning network among the fellows and mentors and create ongoing professional relationships to help those working to prevent child abuse draw on diverse disciplines and innovations.

“We will be creating new knowledge on the dynamics of abuse and neglect and effective strategies for the prevention of child maltreatment,” said Chapin Hall Research Fellow Deborah Daro, a nationally recognized child abuse prevention expert who will lead the fellowships program. “The best strategies for preventing abuse and neglect require a committed, talented and well-prepared workforce.”

The fellowships program will consist of two cohorts of 15 fellows with 2-year terms; the first starting in the Fall 2011, the second starting in the Fall 2012. Each fellow receives an annual stipend of \$25,000 for the duration of the term. The application period for the first cohort will open in August, 2010 and applications will be due in December, 2010.

“We’re looking for applicants who demonstrate initiative to look over the fence and learn what is new in other domains,” said Daro. “We’re looking for those who actively engage in disseminating their findings and work to increase visibility of child abuse and neglect prevention within broader professional associations, and those who understand that research initiatives need to be developed with an eye toward influencing how program managers and policy makers do their work.”

For more information on the *Doris Duke Fellowships for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect* and its application procedure, please visit the Chapin Hall Web site at [www.chapinhall.org/about/fellowships/doris-duke-fellowships](http://www.chapinhall.org/about/fellowships/doris-duke-fellowships) or contact Sylvie Bendier-Decety at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago at [sbendier@chapinhall.org](mailto:sbendier@chapinhall.org).

*Chapin Hall is an independent policy research center whose mission is to build knowledge that improves policies and programs for children and youth, families, and their communities. Our multidisciplinary research encompasses the needs of all children and adolescents, and devotes special attention to those experiencing significant problems, such as maltreatment, poverty, delinquency, and mental and physical illness. For more information, visit [www.chapinhall.org](http://www.chapinhall.org)*

*The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation’s mission is to improve the quality of people’s lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and the prevention of child abuse, and through preservation of the cultural and environmental legacy of Doris Duke’s properties. The DDCF Child Abuse Prevention Program supports efforts that develop and strengthen prevention policies and best practices and integrate them into non-stigmatizing systems that routinely serve large numbers of families with young children. To learn more, visit [www.ddcf.org/child-abuse-prevention](http://www.ddcf.org/child-abuse-prevention).*

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