Accepting Applications for the 2018–19 DOL Scholars Program

Closing April 6, 2018, 5pm (EST)

The United States Department of Labor’s (DOL) Chief Evaluation Office (CEO) is excited to announce the 2018–19 DOL Scholars Program. The purpose of the DOL Scholars Program is to promote and expand labor research that directly relates to DOL policies and programs. The program expects to fund researchers, with individual awards ranging from $20,000–$50,000.

**Program Requirements:** The DOL Scholars will conduct and complete labor-related research between August 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019, culminating in one high-quality working paper, and if the paper includes quantitative analysis, one public-use data file (PUF) to be posted on the DOL CEO website by the end of the award period.

**Benefits:** Participation in the program will provide the DOL Scholar with independent funding to pursue research; an opportunity to present your findings to the DOL community; and the dissemination of your research through the DOL CEO website.

**Eligibility:** Applicants must have an advanced degree in Economics, Public Policy, Public Administration, Sociology, Social Work, Public Health, or a related field. DOL is committed to diversity and seeks a diverse pool of applicants. Current DOL Scholars are ineligible to apply for 2018–19, but are welcome to apply again in 2019–20.

**Application Process**: Applicants must submit a technical proposal, a cost proposal, curriculum vitae, and one letter of recommendation. Application support materials are provided on the program website at <https://www.avarconsulting.com/scholars>.

**Selection:** Awards will be made based on a combination of factors, including the rigor and appropriateness of the proposed methodology; the extent of innovation and creativity in the choice of topic or method; and the potential to inform policy decisions and contribute to scholarly literature. In particular, DOL encourages scholars to explore innovative topics and approaches to labor-relevant research. For areas with a robust knowledge-base, applicants are encouraged to propose advanced inferential techniques to build upon the existing foundation of evidence. For areas with substantial gaps in core knowledge, applicants are encouraged to conduct foundational research, employing tools such as exploratory analyses, theory-building, and problem-identification. The 2018–19 DOL Scholars Program will include a representative selection of research, from established to preliminary. Lastly, proposals must demonstrate the feasibility of completing the program requirements within the award period.

Proposals are expected to include implications for one or more of DOL agencies, programs or policies. Priority consideration will be directed to research proposals involving underserved populations and understudied labor topics. A full list of DOL’s operating agencies are listed below:

* Bureau of International Labor Affairs (<https://www.dol.gov/ilab>)
* Employee Benefits Security (<https://www.dol.gov/ebsa/>)
* Employment and Training Administration (<https://www.dol.gov/eta/>)
* Mine Safety and Health Administration (<https://www.msha.gov/>)
* Office of Disability Employment Policy (<https://www.dol.gov/odep/>).
* Office of Federal Contract Compliance Program (<https://www.dol.gov/ofccp/>)
* Office of Labor-Management Standards (<https://www.dol.gov/olms/>)
* Occupational Safety and Health Administration (<https://www.osha.gov/>)
* Veterans’ Employment and Training Services (<https://www.dol.gov/vets/>)
* Wage and Hour Division (<https://www.dol.gov/whd/>)
* Workers’ Compensation (<https://www.dol.gov/owcp/>)
* Women’s Bureau (<https://www.dol.gov/wb/>)

DOL has contracted with Avar Consulting, Inc. to oversee the 2018–19 DOL Scholars Program. Application materials are available at <https://www.avarconsulting.com/scholars>. Complete applications must be received by 5:00pm Eastern, April 6, 2018; late or incomplete applications will not be reviewed. Decisions are expected in May 2018.

*For additional information or questions regarding the application process or the program in general,*

*please contact Avar Consulting at* *scholars@avarconsulting.com**.*