

**The Institute for Families in Society Dr. Cindy Nord Dissertation Scholarship Award**  
**Established: June 2023**

**Description:**

The Dr. Cindy Nord Dissertation Scholarship Award is established to honor the philanthropist Dr. Cindy Nord, whose visionary leadership and generous gift to the University of South Carolina supported the creation of the Institute for Families in Society, and the maintenance of the work of the Institute for more than three decades.

In line with Dr. Nord's primary interest and passion, this award is designed to support doctoral student dissertation projects that focus specifically on child/youth/family well-being, parenting, and/or prevention of child maltreatment.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Applicants must hold doctoral student status and be in good standing in an academic unit on the University of South Carolina Columbia Campus (documentation required)
- The dissertation topic is strongly related to child/youth/family well-being, parenting, and/or prevention of child maltreatment
- The dissertation proposal has been approved by the academic unit (documentation required)
- Expected completion of the project is within two years of the date of the application for the scholarship

**Distribution and Use of Funds:**

- The amount of the award is \$5000.
- Scholarship funds will be distributed to the primary academic unit for the doctoral student.
- Funds may be used to support the following activities:
  - Stipends for study participants
  - Research assistants working specifically on the dissertation project
  - Travel directly related to data collection for the dissertation project
  - Purchase of software or project equipment that is specifically related to the dissertation project, and without which, the project would not be completed
  - Open access publishing fees for manuscripts prepared from data obtained for the dissertation project
- Unspent funds remaining after two years from the date of the award will be returned to IFS.

**Expectations of Award Recipients:**

- Attend an initial meeting with IFS leadership regarding the dissertation project and proposed use of funds
- Meet with IFS leadership every 6 months to discuss progress

- Submit a written report of dissertation progress and use of funds to the IFS Director on the following schedule:
  - Six months after the initial award
  - 12 months after the initial award
  - 18 months after the initial award
  - 24 months after the initial award (this will serve as the final report for this scholarship).
- Provide IFS with a photo and short bio for the IFS website
- Participate in meetings or events sponsored by IFS as appropriate
- Acknowledge IFS and the Dissertation Award in publications and presentations



**Institute for Families in Society**

*Improving Policy. Advancing Practice.  
Strengthening Communities and Family Well-Being.*

# **Dr. Cindy Nord Dissertation Award Application Form**

**Date:**

**Applicant Name:**

**University Email address:**

**Mailing Address:**

**Phone Number:**

**College:**

**Department:**

**Doctoral Dissertation Faculty/Primary Mentor Name:**

**Doctoral Dissertation Faculty/Primary Mentor email:**

**Date of Entry into the doctoral program:**

**Expected date of completion of doctoral degree:**

**Date of Dissertation Proposal Approval:**

**Dissertation Project Title:**

**Abstract for Dissertation Project:**

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**Please describe how your dissertation topic is related to child/youth/family wellbeing, parenting, and/or prevention of child maltreatment (500 word maximum)**

**Referring to the guidelines for the dissertation award, please describe specifically how scholarship funds will be used to support the dissertation project and how this funding will support completion of the dissertation project. (300 word maximum)**