
Fellowship for BIPOC Students¹

Why a BIPOC Fellowship?

MASOC believes that every child and adolescent deserves to live in a world that allows and encourages them to lead safe, healthy, and meaningful lives. However, we know from the research that sexual violence is less likely to be investigated if the victim is a young person of color, and that Black, Latinx, and indigenous children are more likely to face arrest, and prosecution in juvenile and adult courts.

As professionals working with children and adolescents engaging in problematic sexual behaviors, we also recognize the critical importance of building a field of highly trained, experienced professionals whose own identities reflect the diverse communities that make up Massachusetts. Too often, white professionals have consciously and unconsciously created racially stratified professional networks, advancement opportunities, and mentorship, which leads to professional escalators for white professionals while closing off opportunities for professionals of color.

MASOC seeks to create an advancement opportunity that especially welcomes new BIPOC professionals to the field and creates learning and growth in this specialized area of practice that goes beyond practicum placement or classroom learning to provide mentorship and open professional networks.

Who should apply?

MASOC is primarily an association of clinicians, with a focus on providing educational opportunities and policy conversations affecting children and youth engaging in PSB. We welcome students from a range of clinical fields—psychology, mental health counseling, social work—with an interest in advancing the work with this important population and their families.

However, MASOC also encourages applications from allied fields whose work intersects with and informs our own, so long as the applicant has a specific interest in this practice area: pediatrics and family medicine, law, public health, sociology, criminology, elementary and secondary education, etc.

MASOC is a Massachusetts-based organization, so particularly welcomes applicants who do or are planning to live or practice in Massachusetts. **However,**

¹ Black, indigenous, and people of color.

if your research or practice area particularly involves Massachusetts, you are also encouraged to apply.

Description of Role

The MASOC Fellow will work with the MASOC Board of Directors for 9-months (September, 2024 – June, 2025) on projects affecting children and adolescents with problematic sexual behaviors (PSB).

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work on a range of projects of their choice. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- policy and legislative advocacy,
- social media and communications,
- fundraising and grant writing,
- curriculum design and implementation.

In the application, the Fellow will provide a statement about their interest in this fellowship, the potential topic area(s) they want to explore and a description of how the fellowship relates to their career goals.

Once the Fellow is chosen, they will be matched with a mentor from the MASOC Board of Directors based upon their interest. The mentor will provide individualized guidance, support, and career mentorship over the course of the fellowship.

The time commitment is approximately 2–4 hours a week (in part based on the existing academic and training demands of the Fellow). The Fellow will attend monthly board meetings, have an opportunity lead the board in a discussion based upon their research, lead a presentation about their project at our annual Spring meeting, and participate in the operations of our organization through monthly board meetings.

A stipend of \$1,300 is provided to the Fellow as well as free registration at any MASOC conference ([virtual joint conference](#), [campus conference](#), and [annual in-person conference](#)), webinar or lunch and learn, all of which carry CE credits.

Applications are due by June 15th, 2024. Please send your application to Meg Bossong at info@masoc.net. If you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible project, please contact Meg.

Application

Statement of Interest

Please provide a written statement (approximately 500 words) describing your interest in the MASOC BIPOC fellowship, what project(s) you may want to pursue including the ways that this opportunity relates to your professional interests, career aspirations, and goals.

Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _____

Personal Pronoun(s): _____

The BIPOC fellowship is open to individuals who identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color. By checking this box, you affirm that you are eligible to apply for this fellowship

Language(s) Spoken: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Name of Graduate College/University: _____

Program: _____

Year in Program or graduation year: _____

Area(s) of Focus/Concentration: _____

About MASOC

MASOC's mission is to ensure that children and adolescents with problematic or abusive sexual behaviors live healthy, safe, and productive lives. We strive to prevent sexually abusive behaviors in these youth by training professionals and educating the community about developmentally appropriate interventions, evidence-based treatment, and effective public policies.

It is MASOC's belief that only through specialized intervention can we protect the community, prevent future incidents of abuse, and offer these children and youth the best opportunity to live abuse-free lives. We invest our resources in education and training because specialized assessments and treatment must be administered by professionals trained in working with this population.

Since its founding in 1986, MASOC has provided education and training services to professionals; education to legislators on emerging issues; and coordinates its efforts with both the criminal justice and survivor communities.

MASOC invites all professionals who work with sexually abusive children and adolescents to join with us in our efforts. For more information visit www.masoc.net or contact us at meg@masoc.net.