Title: Training Underrepresented Minority Students in Disability and Racial Health Disparities Research

Authors: (1) Jessica Van Parys, Hunter College, www.jessicavanparys.com; (2) Jevay Grooms, Howard University, http://jevaygrooms.com/

Focal and Program Areas: #1 Disparities by Race and Ethnicity

Keywords: racial health disparities; SSI; health outcomes

JEL Codes: I10, I13, I14

Abstract (with specific aims): We propose to develop a mentored-student research program that focuses on racial health disparities in the SSI population. With ongoing SSA support, we are measuring racial health disparities over time (i.e., our "tracker") using Medicaid claims data (TAF). The tracker shows how health outcomes vary for white, Black, Hispanic, Asian, and Other SSI recipients from 2016 to today. The goal of this training grant application is to link our tracker data to other data sources to better understand the determinants of racial health disparities in the SSI population. Each year, we aim to mentor 4-8 advanced undergraduates or Master's degree students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups (URM) in economics. Our training program will help the students gather additional data sets to link to our tracker data. The students will write research papers on the determinants of racial health disparities and they will present their research in a symposium at the end of the training program. The overarching goal of our training proposal is to (a) provide SSA with more evidence about the determinants of racial health disparities in the disabled population and (b) give URM students the tools and experience they need to be successful in research-oriented careers. Our specific aims are as follows:

Aim #1: From the TAF data, we will create an aggregated data set on SSI enrollment, age, sex, health care utilization, chronic conditions, and health outcomes by race and ethnicity. The aggregated data set will measure these variables at the county-year level (or state-year level) spanning 2016-2021.

Aim #2: Identify publicly available data sets that we can link to the aggregated TAF data. For example, research on "social determinants of health" shows that non-health-related policies or programs can often have health impacts. Therefore, we aim to collect data sets on affordable housing, education, transportation,

pollution, crime, and economic opportunity. We will also encourage students to collect their own data on important policy changes (e.g., Medicaid waiver programs).. Any data set that varies within counties (or states) over time from 2016-2021 may be relevant.

Aim #3: Recruit 4-8 advanced undergraduate or Master's degree students from URM backgrounds to conduct research on racial health disparities. We will help them define a research question, state a hypothesis, develop a method to address the hypothesis, and then analyze our linked data sets to evaluate the hypothesis. Each student will write a research paper on his/her topic, and present his/her results to our group at the end of the training program. It is also our hope that students will submit their research to undergraduate research outlets.

Timeline: The students will be part of the program for the spring and summer semesters. Bi-monthly research meetings will be held to monitor progress and offer guidance. Howard will also incorporate a Ph.D. student to serve as a graduate assistant to help the students with their projects, and to host weekly office hours for students across both institutions.

Activity	**Completion Date**
Calls for student applications	10/31/23
Submit ResDAC application	10/31/23
Deadline for student applications	11/30/23
Accepted students notified	12/15/23
Develop aggregated data files	12/31/23
Student proposals due	2/28/24
Student papers due	8/23/24
Students present to the group	9/2/24
Send papers to SSA	9/29/24