

Assistant Professor Extension, Department of Family Social Science: Family resilience in the context of social and economic inequalities

About the Position:

The Department of Family Social Science in the College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and University of Minnesota Extension Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing seeks a tenure track Assistant Professor whose work centers *community-based applied research approaches to studying family health, resilience and thriving in the context of social and economic inequalities*. The person in this role will contribute through 1) establishing a national and international reputation in their area of translational and applied research; 2) contributing to Extension programming across Minnesota communities and nationally through scholarship, outreach and engagement; and 3) engaging in service at the department, college, University and professional levels.

We seek a scholar whose work centers community-based participatory research methodologies in investigating how social and economic inequalities impact family resilience and thriving and the ways in which families use their cultural assets and community resources in navigating oppressive structures. We are particularly interested in scholars whose work focuses on systemic factors (e.g. policy, welfare reform, racism) related to income inequality/poverty and the impact these have on aspects of family functioning and resilience such as parenting, family stress, decision-making, relationships, and mental health. Scholarship focused on the intersectionality of ethnicity, immigration, and socioeconomic status is especially welcome.

Minnesota has a diverse population, and Family Social Science is committed to scholarship and engagement with minoritized communities and families (e.g., specific ethnic groups, recent immigrants and refugees, or people in rural environments). In support of Extension's and CEHD's strategic plans, this position will add breadth and depth to the existing strengths in family relationship development, parenting, family processes and well-being, prevention and intervention, applied research, and addressing state-wide needs. This position is a 12-month, tenure track faculty position (60% Extension, 40% applied research) located on the St. Paul campus. The preferred start date for the position is Fall 2024, but a later start date is negotiable.

Key Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership for Extension programming in using community-based methodologies related to family health, resilience and thriving for families experiencing social and economic disparities, trauma, and discrimination.
- Conduct translational and applied research related to families and social and economic inequalities that authentically engages community groups and stakeholders in all aspects of research and programming. This will involve working collaboratively with the University of Minnesota Extension's Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing to support the translation of research into practice for extension educators and communities.
- Develop a focused and sustainable research agenda on family health, resilience, and thriving in the face of social and economic inequalities including developing a national reputation through refereed publications and presentations.
- Establish and maintain a strong extramurally funded Extension and applied research program.

- Serve as a member of the graduate faculty, mentor research assistants and supervise graduate student research.
- Additional responsibilities include providing service within professional organizations and on committees within the Department, College, Extension, and the University.

Qualifications

Required:

- Doctoral-level degree in Family Studies, Human Development & Family Studies, Sociology, Applied Economics or closely related field by date of hire
- Methodological expertise in community-based approaches to applied research/inquiry
- Experience in outreach education and non-formal education leadership, including the design, development, or evaluation of programs.
- Positioned for securing external funding to support applied research and Extension scholarship.
- Experience working with diverse families and communities including refugee and immigrant families.
- Evidence of use of cultural humility and culturally responsive approaches in these contexts.
- Experience building and maintaining trusting relationships with practitioners, community partners and families.
- Ability to travel to different sites in Minnesota as needed.

Preferred:

- Knowledge of the land-grant mission, including Extension and agricultural experiment stations.
- Strength in family focused or lifespan development theory or applied research methods (including expertise in community-based approaches)
- Demonstrated commitment to equity, inclusivity and anti-racist practices
- A record of external funding
- Experience mentoring and advising graduate students
- Experience with the development and use of web, social media, and distance education for educational purposes.

About the Department:

The Department of Family Social Science is a multidisciplinary department in which faculty and students use the knowledge and methods of the social sciences to examine the family as a system as it interacts with the environment. Through the activities of teaching, discovery, and engagement, faculty and students address a wide range of social and economic issues affecting families locally, nationally, and globally. The ultimate goal of this work is to enhance the lives of individuals and families. Work is organized around four departmental themes: families and economic well-being, families and health, families and diversity, and relationships and development across the lifespan. The department offers both undergraduate and graduate (masters and Ph. D.) degrees. Please visit our website at <http://www.cehd.umn.edu/fsos/>.

About the College:

The College of Education and Human Development (CEHD), the third largest college at the University, contributes to a just and sustainable future through engagement with the local and global communities to enhance human learning and development at all stages of the life span. We know diversity is necessary to do our best work and foster our humanity. That's why the CEHD community is collectively dedicated to cultivating an inclusive and equitable environment, embracing and celebrating all identities of our students, staff, and faculty. These values are also a moral imperative requiring continuous proactive measures and a firm stance against prejudice, discrimination, and systemic injustice. Please visit our website at <https://www.cehd.umn.edu/>.

About Extension:

The Extension Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing helps families make informed decisions leading to better health, financial security, and wellbeing. We accomplish this by developing, delivering and evaluating credible, relevant and research-based education; working closely with others across Minnesota to build the strengths of individuals and families of all ages, ethnicities and backgrounds; conducting and collaborating on applied research projects; recruiting and retaining expert faculty and staff passionate about families and their success; increasing the understanding of our work among key stakeholders; securing resources to sustain and grow programs that meet emerging needs and support strategic priorities. Extension Department of Family, Health and Wellbeing programs currently focus on family relations, family resource management, and health and nutrition, with special effort in the areas of families in transition, building healthy and strong families, and preparing for an aging Minnesota. Please visit our website at <https://extension.umn.edu/>.

How to Apply

Applications must be submitted online at UMN Jobs [Control + Click here](https://hr.umn.edu/Jobs/Find-Job) (https://hr.umn.edu/Jobs/Find-Job). Job ID **359354**

Application Deadline: The initial screening of applications will begin on February 19th. For best consideration, please submit application materials by February 15th.

This position requires that you attach the following documents as PDFs:

- 1) cover letter
- 2) detailed resume
- 3) names and contact information of three references
- 4) a statement of extension interests
- 5) a statement of research interests

The extension and research statements should include prior or proposed contributions to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

For specific questions about the position contact search committee chair Jodi Dworkin at jdworkin@umn.edu. For general questions about the application process, contact Nikki Wakal at waka0002@umn.edu. To request an accommodation during the application process, please e-mail employ@umn.edu or call (612)-624-UOHR (8687).

University Benefits

The University offers a generous benefits package which include:

- Competitive wages, paid holidays
- Low-cost medical, dental, and pharmacy plans
- Health care and dependent daycare flexible spending accounts
- Excellent retirement plans with generous employer contribution and immediate vesting
- Employer paid disability and life insurance
- Wellbeing program with reduced insurance premiums
- Tuition reimbursement opportunities covering 75% of eligible tuition
- Opportunities for growth and promotion
- Employee Assistance Program

For more information specific to employee groups, please visit the [benefits page](#).