

CHILD AND FAMILY CENTER FOR INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (CFCIR)

Director: Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW, Mary R. Lewis
Endowed Professor in Children & Youth
Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston

Updated 9/30/2025

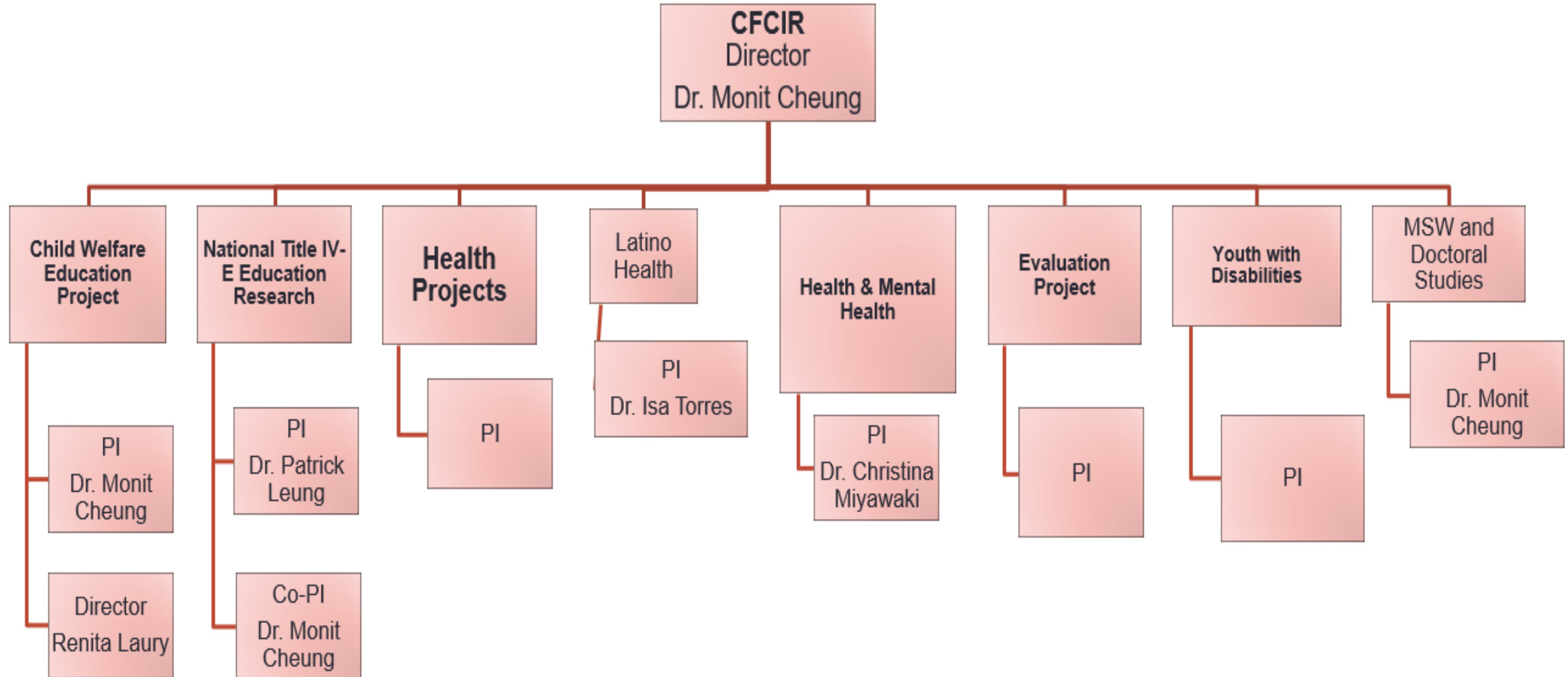
CFCIR Mission

The overall goal of the Child and Family Center for Innovative Research (CFCIR) at the University of Houston is **to improve youth and family well-being**, strengthen interpersonal relationships, and promote the idea that all people should have equal rights, opportunities, and treatment.

CFCIR aims to:

1. Provide a platform for conducting research and engaging faculty and staff in community-based projects using innovative methods and approaches.
2. Collaborate with national, state, and local agencies to perform child and family service and workforce analyses.
3. Develop and test innovative treatment and strategic plans through funded research to improve child and family services.
4. Identify effective prevention and evaluative measures and treatment programs for children, youth and families across cultural backgrounds, especially among underrepresented communities.
5. Provide a platform for interdisciplinary collaboration, between government and not-for-profit agencies and among community organizations, scholars and other service providers, from local to global, aiming to ensure health development for all youths and stop family and interpersonal violence.

CFCIR Projects



CFCIR Advisory Board

- Professor Monit Cheung (Chair)
- Professor Robin Gearing
- Renita Laury, PhD
- Juliet London, PhD, MBA, MSW

Child Welfare Education Project (Title IV-E)

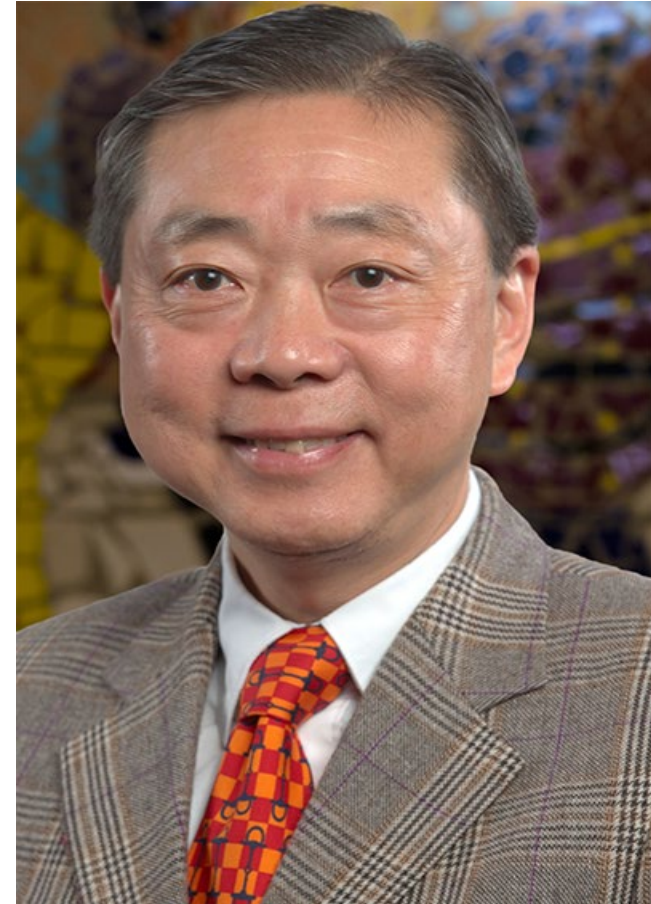
- **Sponsor:** Texas Department of Family and Protective Services
- **Funding:** \$1 million plus matching
- **Purpose:** Prepare master's level social work students for the challenging and rewarding work found in children's protective services.
- **Project years:** 1999 to 2023 annually renewable based on performance and needs
- **PI: Dr. Monit Cheung**



Title IV-E Education Project

- Sponsor: DFPS
- Purpose: To use research as an advocacy tool to increase funding to work with children and their families
- Project year: Ongoing

- PI: **Dr. Patrick Leung**
- Co-PI: **Monit Cheung**



Partnership Training Skills” Connecting MSW and BSW Students in Two UH Campuses: Ongoing Implementaton

- **Sponsor:** Advancing Community Engagement and Service
- **Purpose:** Interuniversity collaboration to use community engagement skills to improve child welfare training in the state of Texas
- **Project Years:** 2018-Current



Disclosure Preferences of Older Latinos with Advanced Cancer & their Caregivers

Research Areas:

- Latino and Latina Health
- Caregiver Stress



Asian American Health and Mental Health

- 2023-2025: Alzheimer's Association: Caregiver-Provided Life Review (C-PLR) for Persons with Dementia in Care Facilities (2)
- 2023-2024: NIH/NHLBI: Facilitators and Barriers to COVID-19 Vaccinations and Clinical Therapeutic Trial Participation in Vietnamese Americans
- 2023-2024: University of Houston: Cougar Cognitive Health Initiative (CHAIN)
- 2022-2027: NIH/NIA: Education and Cognitive Functioning in Later Life: The Nation's High School Class of 1972
- 2022-2023: NIH/NIA: Community-Engaged Dementia Education Program (CEDEP) for the Houston Vietnamese American Community
- 2020-2023: Alzheimer's Association: Caregiver-Provided Life Review (C-PLR) for Persons with Dementia in Care Facilities (1)
- 2020-2021: NIH/NIA: Caregiving and Disability in Older Vietnamese in the U.S.: Vietnamese Aging and Care Survey (VACS)
- 2016-2017: CSWE: Filial Responsibility and Acculturation among Chinese-American Family Caregivers of Older Adults in Houston, Texas: Mental and Health Impact



E-Journal

Child and Family Journal for Innovative Practice and Research (“CFJ”) is a publication providing an integrated practice-research platform for all child and family programs, agencies, and institutions, in the United States as well as globally, to share child welfare innovative practice and research experiences. It aims to provide updated information and innovative practice and research to promote child and family well-being from the community, universities, and clinical or research centers. Scholars and practitioners who work with children and families are our contributors to share knowledge, innovative assessment and intervention, practice insights, service outcomes, policy updates, and sources of professional and educational development from statewide, nationally, and internationally are welcome.

- https://uh.edu/socialwork/New_research/cfcir/child-and-family-journal-cfj/
- Click on this link to read current and past issues, and submission guidelines



MSW/PhD Study Research Scholarships Projects

In August and January each year, when funding is available, the Child & Family Center for Innovative Research (CFCIR) accepts Student Research Awards applications. These awards support PhD students' dissertation research (at any stage) and MSW research (in independent studies or study abroad). We do not set application deadlines. Before submitting an application, please email Dr. Monit Cheung (mcheung@uh.edu) to check if funding is available, indicating the type of research they plan to conduct as related to children/families (dissertation, thesis, independent studies research, or study abroad study).

Recent Doctoral student projects:

- **Marcus Brown (2025)** -- Dissertation Implementation Award: Pathways to Mental Health Recovery among Black Adults with Serious Mental Illness
- **Sear Burr (2025)** – Dissertation Proposal Award: Digital Interventions for Suicide Prevention

Recent MSW student projects:

- **Loren Chorn (2025)** – MSW Research Award: International Social Work: A Comparative Approach
- **Alejandra Hernandez (2025)** — MSW Research Award: Cross-Cultural Approaches to Mental Health Prevention and Intervention for Children and Families: A Comparative Study of India and the United States

Questions for Fund Development under CFCIR

- Contact Dr. Monit Cheung
- mcheung@uh.edu