

## California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC)\*

The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) is a consortium of 20 of the state's accredited social work graduate schools, all the 58 county departments of social services and local mental health departments, the California Department of Social Services, the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, the County Welfare Directors Association of California, the County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California, and foundations.

Created in 1990, CalSWEC is the nation's largest coalition of its kind working together to provide professional education, student support, in-service training, and workforce evaluation research—all directed toward developing effective, culturally competent public service delivery to the people of California.

A unit within Berkeley Social Welfare at the University of California, CalSWEC operates the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program, the Child Welfare In-Service Training Program, and the Integrated Behavioral Health Program. In collaboration with its partners, it works to develop a diverse and qualified workforce for the fields of child welfare and behavioral health; to enhance skills among public and contract agency staff to serve diverse populations in California; and to contribute to knowledge in these systems.

### CalSWEC Title IV-E Program

The CalSWEC Title IV-E Program offers financial support of \$37,000 (\$18,500 for each of two years) to graduate social work students and a total of \$15,000 of educational support in the final year of undergraduate study to individuals who plan to practice in child welfare services. Upon graduation, the students work in a county child welfare service for a time equal to the period for which they received support.

Program activities include the co-development of curriculum competencies, materials, and resources for use by social work programs throughout the state as well as the Pathway Program, intended to address the educational needs of social workers in county child welfare agencies in remote, rural locations and/or areas not in proximity to a university that has a BASW/MSW program.

CalSWEC's Title IV-E evaluation staff have conducted several longitudinal evaluation studies to understand workplace and worker characteristics, and how those relate to worker retention.

*\*This information is valid for 2018–2019.*

### CalSWEC's Mission

CalSWEC facilitates and supports statewide partnerships for the education and training of social workers to ensure culturally responsive, effective, and high-quality health and social service delivery to the people of California.

### GOALS

In support of its Mission, CalSWEC's Goals are to:

- Prepare a diverse group of social workers for careers in human services, with special emphasis in the fields of child welfare, integrated behavioral health, and aging;
- Define and operationalize a continuum of social work education and training;
- Engage in evaluation, research, and dissemination of best practices in social work.

## CHILD WELFARE IN-SERVICE TRAINING PROGRAM

The Child Welfare In-Service Training Program is a statewide collaborative for in-service training and continuing professional education of public child welfare staff. It is composed of six coordinating partners: the four regional training academies, the University Consortium for Children and Families/Los Angeles County Training Division, and the Resource Center for Family-Focused Practice. These all provide a continuum of training and professional education to county staff across the state. This coordinated delivery model reduces duplication of training, increases consistency, promotes professionalism and competency, and supports child welfare staff retention in California's 58 counties.

Significant program activities include:

- statewide coordination of California's Common Core training for line workers and supervisors;
- statewide training evaluation;
- partnering with the California Child Welfare Core Practice Model implementation endeavors; and
- the Efforts to Outcomes data project.

## INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (IBH) PROGRAM

The Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) Program focuses on education and training, evaluation, and community collaboration efforts related to behavioral health care workforce development in California. It does this by supporting and partnering with social work programs, behavioral health service providers, peer support and advocacy entities, and state and local policymakers working to address Californians' behavioral health care needs.

Significant program activities include:

- the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Stipend Program (last cohort in 2018–2019), a training program for MSW students committed to working in California's public mental/behavioral health care system after graduation ;
- the San Francisco Bay Area Integrated Behavioral Health MSW Stipend Program, a federally funded IBH MSW Stipend Program for Bay Area MSW students interested in providing behavioral health care within integrated primary care settings; and
- the evaluation of Berkeley Social Welfare's Latinx Center of Excellence (COE), which is developing pipeline strategies to increase Latino student interest in behavioral health stipends and specialized field placements for Latinx MSW students.

## AGING INITIATIVE

CalSWEC launched the Aging Initiative in 2004, recognizing the need to recruit and train a competent geriatric workforce to support older Californians and their families. As the state's population of older adults grows, geriatric specialists in the state's social services, health, integrated behavioral health, and alcohol and drug systems are needed.

A primary goal of the Aging Initiative is the development of a geriatrically trained social work workforce that may serve in a variety of aging and adult services delivery systems and that will share knowledge and skills across systems to achieve better outcomes for older adults.

In fall 2019, CalSWEC initiated implementation of the Adult Protective Services (APS) Stipend Program.

### CalSWEC Network Hub

The CalSWEC Network Hub is a digital space where the social work community, including educators, trainers, practitioners, and students, can share, use, or adapt educational and professional development resources, including nearly 50 curriculum items from the former California Child Welfare Resource Library.

<https://www.oercommons.org/hubs/calswec>