

THE CalSWEC TITLE IV-E BASW PROGRAM

What is the CalSWEC Title IV-E BASW Program?

The Title IV-E BASW Program is part of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) (<https://calswec.berkeley.edu>) for California State University (CSU) and University of California campuses. It was developed to promote the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and support to BASW and MSW students who commit to a career in public or Tribal child welfare. The full-time Title IV-E BASW Program provides one year of support in the amount of \$15,000 for the final year of study for students who complete the BASW program in preparation for careers in public child welfare.

Part-time students, who must be current employees of a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency, receive support to cover a capped amount toward the actual costs of tuition and fees, required books, and travel expenses to campus or to field placement for up to three years.

Financial support for BASW students is provided through federal Title IV-E training funds managed by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Which schools of social work participate in the Title IV-E BASW Program?

Seven of California's accredited schools of social work and social welfare participate in the program: the CSU campuses at Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Diego. CSU, Long Beach also coordinates distance education sites for other CSU campuses.

How many stipends are available?

Each of the seven participating schools offers stipends and support based on agency need.

What is the application process for full-time students?

Undergraduate students must be enrolled full-time at one of the seven campuses offering the Title IV-E BASW Program. Upon declaration of the major and satisfactory completion of all relevant coursework, the student may apply for admission to the stipend program.

Current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services and probation employees are given admission preference, but they must be on educational leave (i.e., not receiving pay from the agency during the academic year) to receive the full-time stipend. Employed students may work during break periods and summers, and may perform fieldwork in their agency subject to school policies.

Stipend recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, be a resident of California, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill the program's employment obligation upon graduation.

What is the application process for part-time students?

Undergraduate students must be enrolled part-time at one of the seven CSU campuses offering the Title IV-E BASW Program. Upon declaration of the major and satisfactory completion of all relevant coursework, the student may apply for admission to the stipend program. Admittance to part-time Title IV-E study is limited to current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees. Applicants must have a letter of support from their agency director. Support recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, be a resident of California, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill the program's employment obligation upon graduation.

How are students selected for the Title IV-E BASW Program?

Each participating school has an awards committee, consisting of both faculty/administration and agency representatives from public child welfare services, that makes award decisions. Priority is given to current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees and to applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

What are the academic requirements for the Title IV-E BASW Program?

Students must complete the entire BASW degree and CalSWEC Title IV-E child welfare program at their school, including all designated fieldwork for BASW-level education. The total fieldwork requirement must be in a public (Tribal, county, or state) child welfare agency serving Title IV-E children and families.

What is the student's employment obligation after graduation?

All graduates must work in a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families for 12 months.

A part-time student who is currently employed in a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency must return to that agency at a level appropriate to a new BASW in public child welfare. If a position meeting these requirements is not available in the agency to which service is owed, the student must apply for and accept a BASW-equivalent or higher position in any public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in California in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families within one year of graduation.

A student who is not a current employee must search for, apply for, and obtain full-time employment in any public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families at a level appropriate to a new BASW in public child welfare within one year of graduation. BASW graduates who immediately enter a Title IV-E MSW Program may delay BASW employment obligation until after graduation from the MSW program.

What are the options for working with Native American children and families to satisfy the employment obligation?

Any graduate may complete their employment obligation in a reservation or rancheria providing child welfare services in California, or an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E eligible children and families.

Native American/American Indian graduates may complete their employment obligation in a Tribe or a reservation providing child welfare services in another state.

What role do participating public agencies have in the Title IV-E BASW Program?

Participating agencies develop educational leave policies, publicize the program, agree to re-employ trainees as long as jobs are available, provide quality fieldwork with supervision in accordance with school requirements, seek to schedule hiring procedures to fit graduate employment time restrictions, and seek to give hiring preference to graduates. A number of agency directors serve on the CalSWEC Advisory Board.

How can persons interested in the Title IV-E BASW Program obtain more information about applying to a participating school?

They should contact the school they want to attend directly: CSU at Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, Sacramento, San Bernardino, or San Diego.

For more information about the Title IV-E BASW Program:

Contact the Title IV-E BASW Program at your school of interest. For a list of participating schools:

<https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program/prospective-students>

For general information about the program:

<https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program>

Contact CalSWEC at 510.642.9272.