

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) about the TITLE IV-E MSW PROGRAM *

Q: What is the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program?

A: The Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program provides two years of support in the amount of \$18,500 per year for new and continuing full-time students who complete the program. Part-time students, who must be current employees of a county Department of Social Services or the state Department of Social Services (CDSS) Child Welfare Division, receive support to cover the actual costs of tuition and fees, required books, and travel expenses to campus or to field placement.

The Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program is part of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) for California State University (CSU) and University of California campuses. The training program was developed to promote the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and supports to BASW and MSW students who commit to a career in public or Tribal child welfare.

Financial support for the MSW 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).

Q: How many stipends are available?

A: Each of the 20 social work graduate schools may award up to 70 stipends to full- and/or part-time students.

Q: What is the application process for full-time students?

A: Students must be enrolled full time at one of the graduate schools of social work participating in the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program. Current employees of county Departments of Social Services are given admission preference, but they must be on educational leave (i.e., not receiving pay from the agency during the academic year). The employees 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, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

**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.

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Q: What is the application process for part-time students?

A: Students must first be admitted to one of the accredited California graduate schools of social work, then apply for the Title IV-E Stipend Program by completing the application form. Admittance to part-time study is limited to current employees of county Departments of Social Services, Tribal agencies, public child welfare services agencies, or the CDSS Child Welfare Division. 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, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

Q: How are students selected?

A: At each school an awards committee, consisting of both faculty/administration and agency representatives from county child welfare services, makes award decisions. Priority is given to current county Department of Social Services and CDSS Child Welfare Division employees and to applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

Q: What are the academic requirements for the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program?

A: Students must complete the entire MSW child welfare program at their school, including the equivalent of two years of fieldwork. One year of fieldwork must be in a county or Tribal child welfare agency serving Title IV-E children and families. An additional year may be completed in a related county or non-profit program serving child welfare (Title IV-E) clients, i.e., children in or at risk of out-of-home placement.

Q: What is the student's work commitment after graduation?

A: Upon graduation, full- or part-time students must work in a county child welfare services agency, Tribal agency, or the CDSS Child Welfare Division for a period of two years.

A student who is employed in a county Department of Social Services, the CDSS Child Welfare Division, or a Tribal agency must return to that agency and render two years of continuous and satisfactory full-time employment at a level appropriate to a new MSW 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 an equivalent or higher position in any California county child welfare services agency or the CDSS.

A student who is not a current employee must search for, apply for, and obtain full-time employment in child welfare services at a county child welfare services agency or the CDSS at a level appropriate to a new MSW in public child welfare.

Q: What are options for working with Native American children and families to satisfy the work commitment?

A: Native American/American Indian graduates may complete their work commitment in the following settings as alternatives to California child welfare services:

- a reservation or rancheria providing child welfare services in California,
- an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E-eligible children and families,
- a Tribal reservation providing CWS in another state, if the services provided can be considered a public assistance program or exigent circumstances exist to compel such employment.



Q: What role do participating counties have in the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program?

A: Participating counties develop educational leave policies, publicize the program, agree to re-employ trainees as long as jobs are available, provide quality fieldwork with MSW 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 county directors serve on the CalSWEC Advisory Board.

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

A: They should directly contact the school they want to attend. The most current list of schools is available here: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program/prospective-students>

Questions?

For answers to questions about the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program:

- Contact the graduate school in their area and the Title IV-E MSW Stipend Program at the school. If you're not sure of which schools are in your area, review the list of member schools here: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program/prospective-students>
- On CalSWEC's website, visit the Title IV-E Stipend Program, <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program>; or
- Contact CalSWEC at 510-642-9272 (phone).