

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) about the TITLE IV-E PATHWAY PROGRAM\*

### **Q: What is the CalSWEC Title IV-E Pathway Program?**

**A:** The Pathway Program was created to support California public and Tribal child welfare employees in their pursuit of bachelor's and master's degrees in social work with a focus on child welfare. With an emphasis on rural and educationally underserved communities, it offers support to California public universities in developing courses and degrees for BASW/MSW distance education students.

### **Q: Who are eligible for the Pathway Program?**

**A:** California Tribal or public social services employees in targeted rural counties can participate in the Pathway Program. Pathway students must receive a letter of support from their employer.

### **Q: What are the benefits of participating in the Pathway Program?**

**A:** Students accepted to the Pathway Program are eligible to participate in the Title IV-E Stipend Program, which offers financial support through reimbursement of tuition and fees, books and supplies, and other educational expenses. Because Pathway students take courses that use distance education technologies, the courses can be completed partially or entirely online, enabling students to balance their degree programs with other work/life obligations.

### **Q: What are the post-graduation obligations of students who complete the Pathway Program?**

**A:** Students must work in an approved position at a county or Tribal child welfare program after graduation. For BASW and MSW students, this is a two-year obligation. CalSWEC and individual schools offer information about approved available positions.

### **Q: Which schools offer the Pathway Program?**

**A:** The following schools offer the Pathway Program, along with monetary support to students pursuing BASW and MSW degrees using distance education technologies. Each school has information available on its website:

- Humboldt State (BASW, MSW):  
<https://www2.humboldt.edu/socialwork/partnerships/calswec-stipend-projects/pathway-program>
- CSU, Chico (BASW, MSW):  
<https://www.csuchico.edu/swrk/child-welfare-stipend/pathway-program.shtml>
- CSU, San Bernardino (BASW, MSW):  
<https://csbs.csusb.edu/social-work/msw/pdep>

### **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.

\*This information is valid for 2018–2019.

**Q: Can Pathway students be residing anywhere in California?**

**A:** Although the universities offering the Pathway Program use distance education technologies, the primary purpose of the program is for the campuses to offer distance education opportunities to students living within their own region. These regions are generally defined by county:

Humboldt State	CSU, Chico	CSU, San Bernardino
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Del Norte</li><li>• Humboldt</li><li>• Mendocino</li><li>• Siskiyou</li><li>• Tehama</li><li>• Trinity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Butte</li><li>• Colusa</li><li>• Glenn</li><li>• Lake</li><li>• Lassen</li><li>• Modoc</li><li>• Plumas</li><li>• Shasta</li><li>• Siskiyou</li><li>• Sutter</li><li>• Tehama</li><li>• Trinity</li><li>• Yuba</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inyo</li><li>• Mono</li><li>• Riverside</li><li>• San Bernardino</li></ul>

If potential students live outside of these counties or are unsure which campus might be the most geographically appropriate for them, they can contact the Pathway Program representatives at the campus they are interested in attending for more information. This list of counties is intended as a general guideline only; all admissions decisions are at the discretion of each individual campus.

**Q: Can students complete the Pathway Program entirely online?**

**A:** Although Pathway Program students complete most of their coursework online, each campus sets its own structure and policy for face-to-face meetings. Generally, students are expected to travel to campus at least a few days per calendar year; this provides them opportunities to meet their peers, connect with faculty, and practice their skills in face-to-face settings.

**Q: How is the Pathway Program structured?**

**A:** The instructors from each university determine the exact structure of individual courses. Generally, courses include both synchronous (real-time) and asynchronous (self-paced) content. Students in courses with synchronous content, such as lectures and discussions, may need to be online at scheduled times each week. Students in the Pathway Program will follow the traditional academic year, participating in semesters and/or terms.

**Q: Who teaches social work courses offered to Pathway Program students?**

**A:** Faculty at each campus teach both traditional face-to-face courses and online classes, depending on the needs of each campus.

**Q: What social work degrees do Pathway Program students receive? Are the degrees accredited?**

**A:** Students completing the Pathway Program receive social work degrees identical to those of students who complete traditional programs at their home campuses. These degrees are fully accredited by the same organizations (the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the Council on Social Work Education) that oversee traditional face-to-face education.

**Q: What are the Pathway field education requirements?**

**A:** All BASW and MSW programs, including online degrees, require a minimum number of supervised hours of field placement (400 hours for BASW students and 900 for MSW students). Students participating in the Pathway Program must complete these field placement hours in a traditional, face-to-face setting. After admission to a Pathway degree program, the students' host campus will provide them with assistance in securing a field placement opportunity in the campus's local area. The Pathway Title IV-E stipend requires that this internship be focused on child welfare. *If you are an Advanced Standing student, please inquire at your campus about field education requirements.*

**Q: What are the minimum technology requirements for Pathway Program students?**

**A:** Generally, students need a computer and internet connection to complete courses. Students should be able to play back video and audio content online. Each campus may have additional technology requirements.

**Q: What is the application process for the Pathway Program?**

**A:** Child welfare workers in the designated counties or in Tribal regions that serve these counties must first apply for admission and be accepted to the campus that serves their area. At some campuses, students must specifically indicate at the time of their application that they wish to enter the distance education program; at others, students will apply through the regular admissions process. Students should check with their local campus representative for specific information about their particular program or region. After admission to a campus offering the Pathway Program, students can then apply to the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program as a Pathway Program student.

**Q: Can students enroll in distance education programs without being Pathway students?**

**A:** Yes. The distance education programs are available to any student interested in pursuing a social work degree. Each campus sets its own admissions policies for these programs.

**Q: What is CalSWEC, and what is its role in the Pathway Program?**

**A:** The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) (<http://calswec.berkeley.edu>) administers the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program for the California State University and University of California campuses. This program promotes the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and supports to BASW and MSW students who make a commitment to a career in public or Tribal child welfare. CalSWEC provides financial and programmatic support to campuses offering the Pathway Program, but each campus is responsible for the development and administration of its own programs.

**For more Information about the Pathway Program**

California Tribal or public social service employees interested in the Pathway Program should contact the Pathway Program representative at the site where they are interested in enrolling:

- Humboldt State: Michelle Rainer, [michelle.rainer@humboldt.edu](mailto:michelle.rainer@humboldt.edu)
- California State University, Chico: Meka Klungtvét-Morano, [mklungtvét-morano@csuchico.edu](mailto:mklungtvét-morano@csuchico.edu)
- California State University, San Bernardino: Teresa Morris, [tmorris@csusb.edu](mailto:tmorris@csusb.edu)