

# INTEGRATED BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (IBH) PROGRAM

The mission of CalSWEC's Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) Program is to support the development of a skilled, diverse, and culturally competent behavioral health workforce in California, through training, evaluation, and community capacity building projects.

## OVERVIEW

The IBH Program partners with accredited MSW programs, a wide array of behavioral health service providers, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and support and advocacy organizations to ensure that California's social workers are prepared to provide effective evidence-based behavioral health care in a variety of service settings. The IBH Program works to expand its efforts through the pursuit of funding opportunities for training, evaluation, and capacity building projects focused on a range of behavioral health issues, including the integration of behavioral health care with primary care, substance abuse treatment, and culturally sensitive care for all Californians. The IBH Program Director participates in statewide committees, task forces, and work groups focused on addressing Californians' behavioral health needs, and provides data and expertise to local, regional, and state policymakers in relation to policy and planning matters. The IBH Program hosts topical meetings, trainings and symposia and

co-develops curriculum competencies, materials, and resources on behavioral health as a field of practice, for use by MSW programs around the state.

2,562

MSW graduates since 2005

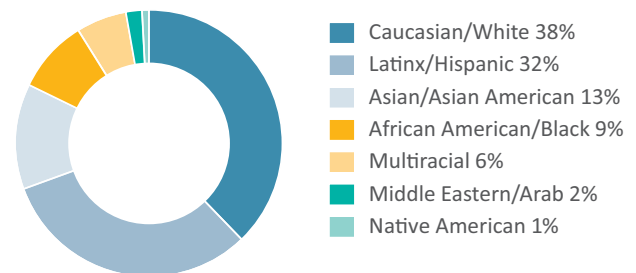
20

Accredited social work programs

93%

Graduate employment in varied behavioral health care settings and services

### Race/Ethnicity of IBH MSW graduates



## TRAINING PROJECTS

### The San Francisco Bay Area BHWET IBH MSW Training Program

Since 2017, CalSWEC's IBH Program has received funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training (BHWET) program for three training projects. Recently refunded for AYs 2021-25, these projects use a multi-level approach to training, resource development, and community capacity building to enhance and expand the behavioral health workforce that serves medically underserved communities. The BHWET IBH Training Program is focused on enhancing regional capacity to provide high-quality integrated care to communities in the Bay Area, with a special focus on service sites heavily

impacted by increased Medi-Cal enrollment associated with California's Medi-Cal expansion.

The BHWET IBH Training Program provides academic, field, and simulation-based training to MSW students focused on delivering team-based interprofessional care, with the goal of preparing them to provide behavioral health care in primary care settings. Program-affiliated faculty and field supervisors also receive interprofessional training. This is intended to strengthen and expand community implementation of the IBH model in both education and practice settings, and enhance academic and field instruction on IBH practice. In exchange for stipend support, IBH trainees commit to seeking employment in integrated behavioral health care settings that serve medically underserved communities after graduation. As more providers adopt



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the integrated care model, IBH trainees are uniquely equipped to become leaders in the delivery of team-based, interdisciplinary integrated care.

## **Public Behavioral Health Training Program for MSW Students**

After the demise of the Mental Health Services Act MSW Training Program, CalSWEC's IBH Program began working with behavioral health workforce development stakeholders across the state to develop a new behavioral health training program for MSW students in California. In March 2023, The IBH Program launched the statewide Public Behavioral Health (PBH) MSW Training Program with support and funding from the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI). The purpose of this program is to build statewide workforce capacity so that California's public services are better able to meet the behavioral health care needs of consumers. Its central goal is to increase the number of newly trained MSW who build careers in a wide variety of public behavioral health care programs and settings in California.

Trainees in the PBH MSW Training Program must complete field training in publicly-funded behavioral health programs and settings that serve underserved consumers, as well behavioral health-focused courses, enhanced field seminars, and additional specialized training focused on providing behavioral health care within public systems of care. MSW students may participate in the PBH MSW Training Program for a total of two academic years, first as foundation year trainees and then as advanced year trainees, and are awarded \$25,000 stipends for each training year. PBH Training Program Graduates must commit to completing 12 months of full-time service employment in public behavioral health programs and settings in California for each year of training participation.

As currently funded, the PBH MSW Training Program will provide specialized training and stipend support to 550 MSW students at MSW programs around the state between AYs 2023-24 and 2025-26. For AY 2023-24, the program includes 192 trainees at 16 accredited MSW programs. CalSWEC hopes to partner with additional MSW programs in AY 2024-25 and is in discussion with HCAI to expand the program to additional years. Program plans also include offering over 300 fellowships to recent MSW graduates pursuing LCSW licensure, who will

receive post-graduate training and fellowship support in exchange for a commitment to provide public behavioral health care services after the fellowship.

## **EVALUATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS**

### **Evaluation of the Mental Health Services Act Stipend Program for MSW Students**

The MHSA Stipend Program for MSW Students was a statewide program that provided specialized training and stipend support to MSW students committed to post-graduation employment in California's public behavioral health system. Funded through MHSA Workforce Education and Training funds and administered by California's Department of Mental Health and then the Office of Statewide Health Planning & Development (OSHPD), it served 2350 MSW students at 22 accredited MSW programs between 2005 and 2019. The IBH Program continues to track MHSA graduates and evaluate the impact of the program, most recently through a retrospective study that examined training outcomes, career trajectories and retention in public service among program graduates. Highlights of the MHSA Stipend Program Retrospective Survey can be found on our [website](#).

### **Capacity Building Partnership with the California Primary Care Association**

In 2021 and 2022, the IBH Program partnered with the California Primary Care Association (CPCA) to support the expansion and enhancement of training partnerships between MSW programs and FQHCs through the creation of a guide for developing such partnerships disseminated to community health centers (CHCs) statewide. The guide provides practical guidance for CHCs around partnering with MSW programs to develop and implement field education programs, including developing field training contracts with universities and student learning agreements with trainees. It provides guidance and resources for supervising, navigating challenges with, and evaluating MSW interns, while supporting commitments to diversity, equity and inclusion. It also provides resources related to national and state requirements for social work education and field training, educational partnership opportunities in MSW education, and clinical social work licensure. The guide can be downloaded for free at CPCA's [online store](#).