

# SERVE: Indigenous Community Social Workers for Change

SERVE aims to recruit Indigenous students (Native American/Native Alaskan) into the CalSWEC Title IV-E Program with a specialization in public child welfare.

## OVERVIEW

Title IV-E is part of the Social Security Act managed by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and provides stipends as follows:

- BASW full-time students, a stipend of \$15,000 for the final year of study
- MSW full-time students, a stipend of \$18,500 per academic year
- Part-Time MSW and Pathway BASW and MSW reimbursement of actual student expenses for tuition, fees, books, and travel, up to \$14,164 per year. Part-time students must be current public (Tribal, county, state) social services employees.

**\$15,000**  
Stipend for final year  
BASW full-time students

**\$18,500**  
Stipend per year for  
MSW full-time students

Graduates must complete an employment obligation in a public (Tribal, county, state) child welfare services agency in California commensurate to the time monetary support was received. NOTE: Native students are able to complete their employment obligation with a Tribe, reservation, rancheria or tribal agency/organization anywhere in the United States.

## SERVE VISION

Envisions Tribal sovereign nations and Indigenous communities as sustainable healthy communities that use healing interventions to provide empowerment, mentorship, and leadership development; to promote

cultural preservation and appreciation of Indigenous cultures by recognizing and supporting Tribal sovereignty, and protecting cultural rights and identity of Indigenous peoples.



## SERVE MISSION

Committed to full equity, justice, well-being, and cultural preservation of American Indian/Alaska Native children and families by increasing the numbers of Indigenous social work graduates; fostering inclusive leadership development; developing partnerships between Tribal sovereign nations, indigenous communities, and other stakeholders; and implementing decolonizing social work curricula to reflect community-based, culturally appropriate Indigenous values and the promotion of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.

## SERVE OBJECTIVES

- To increase the enrollment and graduation of Native Americans from social work programs offering Bachelor of Arts In Social Work (BASW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) degrees in California;
- To increase the number of opportunities for all MSW students to complete field placements at Tribal agencies, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations;
- To increase partnerships between Tribal organizations and advocacy groups and schools of social work throughout California;

- To increase capacity and curriculum of the CalSWEC-affiliated schools to train social workers with cultural responsiveness directly related to California’s Native population.

## BACKGROUND

The American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program was initiated in 1981 at UC Berkeley through the American Indian/Alaskan Native Program in Social Welfare. In 1999, AIR was adopted by CalSWEC and grew into a statewide effort that operated from California State University, Stanislaus, where it helped to form collaborative working relationships with 67 of 110 California Tribal agencies.

In summer 2011, AIR was expanded and restructured in an effort to strategically increase statewide outreach and development efforts. In 2012, AIR went through a strategic planning process that updated its vision and mission, and changed its name to SERVE: Indigenous Community Social Workers for Change. It now operates from three distinct locations for the state’s Northern, Central, and Southern regions.

## PROGRAM REGIONS

### SERVE Coordinators

#### Northern Region

Cal Poly Humboldt  
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#### Central Region

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#### Southern Region

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For more information about SERVE, the Title IV-E Program, participating schools, and how to apply, please visit [CalSWEC.berkeley.edu](http://CalSWEC.berkeley.edu).



## SERVE MODEL

For successful recruitment and retention of Indigenous (Native American/Native Alaskan) students and preparation of non-Native students, it is essential that all the following areas (Building Relationships/Partnerships, Decolonizing Curricula, Recruitment, and Field Placements) are in place to provide an adequate and appropriate support system for students.

## SERVE MAY ASSIST WITH/TO

- Interested Indigenous students applying to BASW and MSW programs within California, including Title IV-E Programs;
- Connect Indigenous students to placements in Tribal agencies, Rancherias, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations; and establish field placement sites for interns at Tribal agencies, Rancherias and/or child protection service agencies;
- Trainings on Native American issues in social welfare and child welfare to universities and child protective agencies.

[Click on a school’s name to visit its social work department’s website](#)

#### Northern Region

CSU Chico  
Cal Poly Humboldt  
Sacramento State University

#### Central Region

CSU Bakersfield  
CSU East Bay  
CSU Fresno  
CSU Monterey Bay  
CSU Stanislaus  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
University of California, Berkeley

#### Southern Region

CSU Dominguez Hills  
CSU Fullerton  
CSU Long Beach  
CSU Los Angeles  
CSU Northridge  
CSU San Bernardino  
CSU San Marcos  
San Diego State University  
University of California, Los Angeles