Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program

Background
In 1990, the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) was created to improve the education and training of social workers for publicly supported social services.

With funding from federal Title IV-E training funds, CalSWEC in 1992 entered into a contract with the California Department of Social Services to develop the Title IV-E Master of Social Work program and began collaborating with higher education schools of social work. The goal is to improve the education and training of social workers for publicly supported social services. The consortium now includes 21 California universities providing financial aid for students and graduates for careers in public child welfare.

Stipends
Each of the 21 graduate schools of social work with a Title IV-E MSW program may award up to 20 stipends per class of full-time students. Students must be enrolled full-time and maintain satisfactory performance throughout their course of study and complete the required Title IV-E child welfare curriculum, including a 1st year fieldwork placement in an agency serving Title IV-E eligible clients, a 2nd year fieldwork placement in a county child welfare agency, and commit to work in a public child welfare agency post Master's for at least two (2) years or for each year they received the stipend.

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**How much financial aid is provided?**
The Title IV-E stipend provides two (2) years of support to full-time students who complete the MSW program with the appropriate specialization Children, Youth and Families (CYF) in preparation for careers in public child welfare. Since fall 2000, the stipend amount has been $18,500 per year (an increase from $15,000) for both new and continuing students. Part-time students, limited to current employees of a county or state Department of Social Services, receive tuition and fees, costs for required books, and a travel allowance for each day of class or fieldwork.

**Full-time Stipends**
Full-time stipends are offered at the Hayward campus MSW program. The stipend provides **full-time students** $18,500 per year for two (2) years. Current employees of county departments of social services are given admission preference but they must be on educational leave (i.e., not received 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. Students must complete the MSW program with the appropriate Children, Youth and Family (CYF) specialization for careers in public child welfare. Upon graduation, students must fulfill a work commitment in a public child welfare agency anywhere in the state of California and remain employed for two (2) years.

**Part-time Stipends**
Part-time educational reimbursement stipends (or in our case year-round) are offered at our Oakland campus MSW program. Current state or county employees of social services agencies will be reimbursed for tuition, books and travel to class or field site. Applicants must have a letter of support from their agency director. Recipients must complete the MSW program with the appropriate Children, Youth and Family (CYF) specialization for careers in public child welfare. Upon graduation, students must return to their agency and secure a position appropriate for a MSW level and fulfill a work commitment in a public child welfare agency in the state of California and remain employed for two (2) years.
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Requirements
Students must provide proof of U.S. citizenship showing permanent residency, have a valid California driver’s license and use of a registered vehicle with automobile insurance while in the program including the post graduation employment obligation.

Admissions
Students must apply to both the University and the Department. Department application packets include the optional Title IV-E application. All department applications, including the Title IV-E application must be received and in the office by January 15, 2016. Note: We strongly urge that you submit your application packet by December 15, 2015.

Only after a student has been accepted into the MSW program will their Title IV-E stipend application be considered.

Pre-Screening
We pre-screen applicants to the best of our ability to ensure they are eligible for county placements and employment. Selected applicants must undergo a live scan background check administered by the Department of Public Safety at CSUEB and submit a DMV printout of their driving record for the past ten (10) years. Applicants with a poor driving record may be disqualified. Misdemeanor and felony convictions for crimes against children, assault, drugs and driving while under the influence may also disqualify an applicant.

Selection Process
All qualified Title IV-E applicants that have been accepted into the MSW program will be interviewed. Qualified applicants will be notified of their interview date and time. Panel members consisting of the Title IV-E Project Coordinator, faculty and county child welfare representatives will conduct in-person interviews of selected applicants.
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Applicant Priority
Years of service and other child welfare experience weigh significantly in the selection process. Panel members carefully review the applicant’s statement regarding their interest in public child welfare. Priority is given to applicants who reflect the diverse client population groups served by public child welfare agencies. Fluency in high-demand languages is also given priority.

Stipend Recipients
If awarded the full-time stipend, the student will receive $18,500 per year. Full-time stipend payments are generally paid fall, winter and spring quarters to assist students with the cost of tuition, books and living expenses. Tuition for the part-time students is paid directly to the University each quarter the student is enrolled.

Repayment
Title IV-E students sign a contract and a repayment agreement upon entering the program. The repayment agreement is executed if a student is terminated and/or withdraws from the program. Termination can be for a variety of reasons such as poor academic performance, failure in field placement and/or conduct not becoming to a professional social worker. Repayment amounts include interest.

Post Graduate Employment
Upon graduation, students must find employment in a county child welfare services agency and remain employed for a period of two (2) years. Students must seek, apply for and accept a MSW level position in any California county public child welfare services agency or in the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). Failure to do so may result in repayment of Title IV-E funds. Native American Indian graduates with tribal rights may complete their work commitment in the following settings as alternatives to California county CWS agencies: (1) a reservation or Rancheria providing child welfare services in California; (2) an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E eligible children and families; or (3) a reservation providing child welfare services in another state.
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Application
If you are interested in applying for the CalSWEC Title IV-E stipend at California State University East Bay, complete the application found on our website: www20.csueastbay.edu/class/departments/socialwork/

All questions must be addressed and your one (1) page statement as to “why you would like to pursue a career in public child welfare” must be enclosed in addition to a copy of your current resume and DMV printout. Failure to do so will result in an incomplete application and may be denied.

Questions
If you need further information and would like to contact us directly, our contact information is listed below.

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