



2026-27 Adult and Aging Services MSW Training Program

OVERVIEW

Program Funding & Goals

The Adult and Aging Services MSW Training Program (AAS MSW Training Program) is funded by the [California Department of Social Services \(CDSS\)](#) and managed in partnership with San Jose State University (SJSU) as part of workforce development goals prioritized in California's Master Plan for Aging. Its central goals are:

- To provide specialized education, training and stipend support for MSW students who are committed to careers providing social work services to aging and vulnerable adults in California's publicly funded systems, programs and settings
- To better prepare new MSWs to provide evidence-based professional social work services to effectively address the complex needs of aging and vulnerable adults served by California's public Aging Services systems
- To enhance the hiring, retention and career development of MSWs working in public Adult Services programs in all regions of California

Trainee Award Guidelines

- MSW students are accepted into the training program one academic year at a time
- MSW students may apply to the program for one year of foundation training and one year of advanced training, in different academic years
- Acceptance into the training program for one year of foundation training does NOT guarantee acceptance for a second year of advanced training
- MSW students may participate in the training program for a maximum of two academic years (one foundation year and one advanced year)
- Trainees must be engaged in practicum training during the academic year
- Advanced standing students are considered advanced year trainees

Trainee Eligibility Criteria

The CSUEB AAS MSW Training Program is open to MSW students who are:

- Enrolled as full-time, part-time or advanced standing students
- Entering the proposed training year in good academic standing with the MSW program
- Matched/matching with practicum placements in eligible training sites for the intended training year
- Not receiving funding support from any other state administered or funded training, stipend or scholarship program for the intended training year

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Trainee Selection Criteria

The CSUEB AAS MSW Training Program seeks MSW students who demonstrate:

- **Interest in and commitment to learning** about the issues, challenges and needs specific to social work practice with aging and vulnerable adults served by California's public systems of care
 - This is demonstrated by trainee commitment to completing all required but non-credited training program components over the course of the training year
- **Strong and sustained commitment** to social work careers working with aging and vulnerable adults in public Adult Services programs in California
- Linguistic and cultural competencies that align with the needs of underserved consumers in California

Application Procedure

- SJSU creates a Qualtrics-based training program application and shares that link with CSUEB's MSW department as a participating program partner
- CSUEB then (1) shares that application link and (2) communicates all relevant campus-based application deadlines with potential applicants
- CSUEB sets its own timeline for application release, application deadline, finalist interviews, and award notifications
- Interested students should submit completed applications by the deadlines established by and for CSUEB's MSW program
- Current MSW students will be provided with more information on the 2027-2028 application process in the spring.

Trainee Selection Process

- CSUEB's MSW program receives and reviews all applications received from students in its program
- After reviewing submitted applications, CSUEB identifies finalists who are matched/matching with eligible practicum placements for the training year
- Panels of CSUEB MSW program faculty and community members conduct finalist interviews (usually on Zoom) with identified finalists
- CSUEB's MSW program selects awardees but notifies them only AFTER verifying they are matched/matching with eligible practicum placements for the training year
- SJSU is NOT involved in the review of applications, interviewing of finalists, or the selection of awardees in any way

Award Notification Process

- In late August/early September, SJSU asks CSUEB to forward an email to intended trainees
- In that email, SJSU asks intended trainees to initiate contact with SJSU to confirm their intention to participate and their practicum training plans, and provide direct contact information
- SJSU then verifies the eligibility of each intended trainee's practicum placement again, before inviting eligible trainees to register for the trainee program orientation
- AFTER each trainee has completed the program orientation, SJSU sends them the Student Service Agreement for signature
- Stipend funding dissemination begins only after SJSU has verified that the trainee and campus PI have both signed the Student Service Agreement

Stipend Awards

- Trainees who meet CSUEB guidelines for full-time enrollment (students taking 6 or more units per semester) are eligible for stipends of \$25,000 for AY 2026-27.
- Trainees receive two stipend disbursements of \$12,500 each. Both fall and spring disbursements are sent to trainees in mid semester, after confirmation of course registrations, course completions (mid year) and ongoing good academic standing.

TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Coursework Requirements

- Both foundation and advanced year AAS trainees must complete the courses identified by CSUEB's MSW program as required for AAS trainees
 - These are the foundation and advanced year practice, policy and research courses for the aging or gerontology option if one exists OR the closest equivalent in a generalist practice program, in which students interested in aging/gerontology would typically enroll
 - Any time course options diverge, AAS trainees will be required to complete the option that focuses most on lifespan development, aging, gerontology or health and disability (rather than CYF, child welfare, macro practice, etc.)

Practicum Training Requirements

- AAS trainees' foundation year practicum training must involve contributing to the delivery of social work services for aging and vulnerable adults through publicly funded systems, programs and/or settings
- AAS trainees' advanced year practicum training must involve providing social work services for aging and vulnerable adults through publicly funded systems, programs and/or settings
- The specific programs/services AAS trainees provide MUST be supported by public (federal, state, regional, county, city or local) funding
- The specific programs/services AAS trainees provide MUST be designed to serve aging and vulnerable adults specifically/exclusively, NOT incidentally

Practicum Training Sites

- Eligible practicum training placements for both foundation and advanced year Aging & Adult Services trainees include:
 - Public (county and Tribal) Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, and Public Guardian/Public Conservator programs
 - Publicly funded CBAS - Community-Based Adult Services
 - Publicly funded MSSPs - Multipurpose Senior Services Programs
 - Publicly funded PACE Programs - Programs of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly
 - Area Agency on Aging programs funded by the California Department of Aging
 - Public behavioral health programs in public Adult Services and Behavioral Health departments designed to serve aging and vulnerable adults specifically

Practicum Training Site Eligibility

- Eligible practicum training placements for **foundation year** Aging & Adult Services trainees can **also** include other agencies, departments and programs that:
 - Are fully publicly funded
 - Provide social work services for aging and vulnerable adults representative of the populations typically served by California's County and Tribal Adult Services programs

- Such placements must involve the trainee providing social work services specifically and exclusively to aging and vulnerable adults
- Accepting Medi-Cal reimbursement as a form of insurance coverage does NOT demonstrate that an agency or organization is publicly funded

Practicum/Training Seminar Requirements

- Some MSW programs are able to create designated specialized practicum seminars for AAS trainees that focus exclusively/intensively on social work practice with aging and vulnerable adults in public systems of care
- For MSW programs that cannot offer designated AAS practicum seminars:
 - Both foundation and advanced year AAS trainees must enroll in the practicum seminar best for students in the AAS training program, per the MSW program
 - In addition, all AAS trainees must participate in monthly practicum seminar enhancements/training program seminars focused specifically on key issues in and best practices for providing social work services for aging and vulnerable adults in California's public systems of care
 - Attendance at these monthly seminars is required, NOT optional

Other Training Year Commitments

- AAS trainees must participate in all trainee meetings scheduled by SJSU during the training year, including the trainee program orientation and the new graduate orientation, as well as any individual meetings requested
- AAS trainees must complete all virtual trainings designated and scheduled by SJSU for AAS trainees during the training year (these are NOT optional)
 - This typically includes five virtual trainings, each offered at two different dates and times, over the course of the training year
 - Trainings are focused on key skills for social work practice with aging and vulnerable adults served by public systems of care
- AAS trainees must complete the trainee information survey, practicum placement form, practicum experience survey and pre- and post-training surveys as requested and on time during the training year

ADDITIONAL TRAINEE COMMITMENTS

Post-Graduation Commitments to SJSU

- In addition to completing training year requirements, AAS graduates must:
 - Provide updated contact information to SJSU at MSW graduation
 - Complete annual follow-up surveys as requested and on time for up to seven years after MSW graduation
 - Complete the AAS service obligation within 36 months of MSW graduation
- AAS graduates are not required, but are encouraged, to:
 - Pursue and document pursuit of LCSW licensure, including registering as an ASW, seeking a position in which supervision hours can be accrued, and working toward eligibility for the ASWB Clinical Exam

Post-Graduation Service Obligation

- For each year of training participation, AAS graduates must complete the equivalent of 12 months of full-time service within the state of California

- AAS graduates must **begin searching for** an eligible service position within 6 months of MSW graduation
- AAS graduates must **begin service** within 12 months of MSW graduation
- AAS graduates must **complete required service** (either 12 or 24 months depending on years of training) within 36 months of MSW graduation
- AAS service can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, but must involve working a minimum average of 20 hours per week each month
- Full-time employment is defined by the employer and may be defined as 32, 35, 36, 37.5 or 40 hours per week depending on the employer

Eligible AAS Service Sites

- Eligible sites for the completion of the AAS service obligation include:
 - Public (county and Tribal) Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, and Public Guardian/Public Conservator programs
 - CBAS - Community-Based Adult Services
 - MSSPs - Multipurpose Senior Services Programs
 - PACE Programs - Programs of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly
 - Area Agency on Aging programs funded by the California Department of Aging
 - Public behavioral health programs in public Adult Services and Behavioral Health departments designed to serve aging and vulnerable adults specifically

More on AAS Service Site Eligibility

- AAS service employment sites must be BOTH (1) publicly funded to provide direct services AND (2) serve aging and vulnerable adults (**not either/or**)
- If service is fulfilled in an eligible nonprofit setting (AAA), the **specific services** the AAS graduate provides MUST be supported by public funding
- The specific services the AAS graduate provides MUST serve aging and vulnerable adults explicitly and by design, NOT incidentally
- Accepting Medi-Cal reimbursement as a form of insurance coverage does NOT qualify a site as being publicly funded

AAS Service Position Eligibility

- AAS service positions MUST be master's level positions
 - This means the job description and/or position classification must indicate that a master's degree is required (or at minimum preferred) to be hired for the position in question
- AAS service positions must involve the graduate providing direct services to aging and vulnerable adults typical of those served in California's public systems of care
- Both the MSW graduate and the consumers being served must be physically located in California
- AAS graduates are encouraged (but not required) to secure MSW positions through which they can accrue supervision hours for LCSW licensure

AAS Trainee Tracking and Reporting

- AAS graduates should reach out to SJSU, not CSUEB, with questions and issues related to post-MSW graduation program obligations
- SJSU manages all tracking of and reporting on AAS trainees during training and AAS graduates after training program completion

- SJSU verifies, documents and reports to the program funder on all AAS graduates' completion of required service, pursuit of LCSW licensure and cash repayment of stipend funding
- SJSU reaches out to graduates at various intervals to verify ongoing and timely progress toward completion of post-graduate requirements

AAS Post-Graduation Repayment Obligation

- CDSS does not actually want graduates to end up in repayment and SJSU works hard to help graduates avoid this outcome
- The key to staying out of repayment is staying in communication with SJSU
- Former AAS trainees who fail to complete (1) the MSW degree, (2) the AAS training program requirements OR (3) the AAS service obligation within established deadlines must repay the stipend funding they received
- Former AAS trainees and AAS graduates who fulfill NONE of the service obligation must repay all stipend funding received
- AAS graduates who fulfill SOME but NOT all of the service obligation must repay a prorated amount based on the number of months of eligible service completed
- Stipend funding repayment plans typically involve monthly payments spread out over 12 to 24 months and may include interest and fees as well as stipend funding

If you have any questions about the AAS MSW Training Program, please contact the program project coordinator, Dr. Kristen Gustavson, at kristen.gustavson@csueastbay.edu.