

Overview of the CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program

The CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program (PBH Training Program) is funded by the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) as part of statewide behavioral health workforce development initiative. Its central goals are:

- To better prepare MSW students to provide effective, evidence-based behavioral health care in publicly funded programs and settings
- To better prepare new MSWs to proactively support the integration of behavioral health care services with and within other public services and systems
- To enhance the retention and development of MSWs in public behavioral health programs and settings

Trainee Eligibility Criteria

The PBH Training Program is open to CSUEB MSW students within the Community Mental Health Concentration who are:

- Enrolled in the CSUEB MSW program as full-time, extended, or advanced standing students in the Community Mental Health concentration
- Entering either the first or second year of practicum
- In good academic standing
- Matched/matching with practicum placements for the training year at sites that receive public funding to provide behavioral health care services
- Not receiving funding support from any other HCAI-administered training or scholarship program

Trainee Selection Criteria

The PBH Training Program seeks MSW students who demonstrate:

- Interest in and commitment to learning about the issues, challenges and needs specific to behavioral health care practice in public service settings
- Linguistic and cultural competencies that align with the needs of underserved consumers in California
- **Strong and sustained commitment** to MSW careers as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded programs and settings in California

Trainee Award Guidelines

- MSW students will be accepted to the training program for one academic year at a time
- MSW students may apply to the program for one year of foundation training and for 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

Application Procedures

Current MSW students will be provided with more information on the 2024-2025 application process in the spring.

Trainee Selection Process

The CSUEB MSW program will review all submitted applications, identify and conduct panel interviews with finalists, and select awardees. Finalists may be invited for interviews with faculty and community members, and selected trainees will be notified after the CSUEB MSW program has verified that they are matched with eligible practicum placements for the training year. CalSWEC will verify practicum placement eligibility in the fall, before trainees sign student service agreements and before stipend funding is awarded.

Stipend Awards

Stipends for **students taking 6 or more units per semester** are \$25,000 per academic year. Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements: \$12,500 in **mid to late** fall semester; \$12,500 in **mid** spring semester.

Training Requirements

Foundation year trainees must complete all required general and behavioral health-focused courses as specified by the MSW program. These should be the foundational practice, policy and research courses in which students interested in behavioral health direct service typically enroll.

Advanced year trainees must complete all behavioral health-focused courses as required and/or specified by the MSW program. These should be the advanced practice, policy and research courses in which students focused on behavioral health direct service practice typically enroll.

Practicum Training Requirements

Foundation year practicum training must focus on the student contributing to the delivery of publicly funded behavioral health care services. **Advanced year practicum training** must focus on the student providing publicly funded behavioral health services. Eligible practicum training sites include community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, as well as child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court, and adult corrections units that offer publicly funded behavioral health care programs and services.

Practicum Seminar Expectations

Foundation year trainees' practicum seminar must include significant focus on behavioral health practice in public systems and should include all trainees if at all possible. This should be the practicum seminar for foundation students interested in behavioral health direct service practice, as designated by the MSW program. **Advanced year trainees' practicum seminar** must include significant focus on behavioral health practice in public systems and should include all trainees if at all possible. This should be the practicum seminar for students in the behavioral health option/concentration or the closest equivalent of that MSW program, as designated by the MSW program (CMH Concentration at CSUEB).

Additional Trainee Commitments and Post-Graduation Service Obligation

Trainees must commit to: participating in all scheduled program meetings and trainings during the training year; completing all pre-/post-training surveys as requested and on time during the training year; providing updated contact information at MSW graduation; completing annual follow-up surveys as requested and on time for at least five years after graduation; completing the post-graduation service obligation; pursuing LCSW licensure.

For each year of training participation, graduates must provide the equivalent of 12 months of full-time service as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded behavioral health programs and settings.

Eligible service settings include (but are not limited to) community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools and colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, and child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court and adult corrections units with publicly funded behavioral health programs and services. Graduates must verify pursuit of LCSW licensure via BBS registration and the accrual of required hours.

Training program graduates who fail to complete the required service obligation by the deadline based on graduation date will be required to repay the stipend funding to their MSW program. Graduates who fulfill NONE of the service obligation will be required to repay all stipend funding in full. Graduates who fulfill SOME but not ALL of the service obligation will be required to repay a prorated amount, based on the total hours of eligible service completed. Stipend funding repayment plans typically include stipend funding, interest and processing fees.

If you have any questions about the CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program, please email tracey.zahradka@csueastbay.edu.