

Overview of Title IV-E Stipend Program

The CSUEB Title IV-E MSW Child Welfare Training Program prepares a group of MSW students each year for careers in public child welfare services. Qualified MSW students who are interested in the program go through a special selection process, and if selected, will receive stipends of \$18,500 each year for the two years of the full-time program. For Frequently Asked Questions about the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program, visit: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program> Please note that if you receive this award, it may impact your financial aid package. Please contact CSUEB for any financial aid questions <http://www.csueastbay.edu/financialaid/index.html>

What is Public Child Welfare? Is the Title IV-E Program A Good Fit For Me?

Child welfare systems across the country serve some of the most vulnerable children, youth, and families. These systems are designed to support families and to protect children from harm through an array of prevention and intervention services; in particular, they are designed to support children who have been or are at risk of abuse or neglect. Child welfare is a continuum of services designed to ensure that children are safe and that families have the necessary support to care for their children successfully. Child welfare agencies typically:

- Support or coordinate services to prevent child abuse and neglect;
- Provide services to families that need help protecting and caring for their children;
- Receive and investigate reports of possible child abuse and neglect; assess child and family needs, strengths, and resources;
- Arrange for children to live with kin (i.e., relatives) or with foster families when safety cannot be ensured at home;
- Support the well-being of children living with relatives or foster families, including ensuring that their educational needs are addressed;
- Work with the children, youth, and families to achieve family reunification, adoption, or other permanent family connections for children and youth leaving foster care.

Resources for understanding what child welfare work entails & whether it may be a good fit for you:

- Realistic Job Preview (California): <https://www.dropbox.com/s/bu-pitgwthh4qles/Recruitmentv2.mov?dl=0>
- "If You're Right for the Job, It's the Best Job in the World": The NASW Child Welfare Specialty Practice Section Members Describe their Experiences In Child Welfare: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Mr2sd4diMUA%3D&portalid=0>

IV-E Student & Graduate Contractual Obligations

As a Student: IV-E recipients must agree to enroll in the Children, Youth and Family Concentration and complete a specialized academic curriculum. This includes two years of monthly IV-E workshops, and two years of specialized fieldwork - one year of fieldwork must be in a county child welfare agency or a Tribal social services agency serving Title IV-E children and families. Another year may be completed in a related county, Tribal or non-profit program serving child welfare (Title IV-E) clients, i.e., children in or at risk of out-of-home placement. All IV-E students are also required to maintain good academic standing in the MSW Program (maintaining a 3.0 GPA), including but not limited to field placements and /or selection for field placements.

As a Graduate: Upon graduation, students must work full-time in a county child welfare services agency or California Department of Social Services (CDSS) child welfare division or a Tribal agency for a period of two years.

A student who is employed in a county or the state Department of Social Services must return to that agency and render one year of continuous and satisfactory full-time employment for each year of stipend award at a level appropriate to a new MSW in public child welfare. If a position meeting these requirements is not available in the agency to which service is owed, the student must apply for and accept an equivalent or higher position in a county child welfare service or tribal agency within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. If this is not available, the student must search, apply for, and accept an MSW equivalent or higher position in any California county child welfare services agency or the California Department of Social Services.

A student who is not a current employee must apply for and accept a full-time position appropriate to a new MSW in a public child welfare agency within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. If no position is available within 75 miles, the student must search, apply for, and accept an MSW-level position in any California county child welfare services agency or the California Department of Social Services. If a student applies for and is offered a position outside the 75-mile radius, but within California, during the first six months of the search, the student may accept that position.

Program graduates who are Native Americans with tribal rights as specified under the laws of the State of California may complete their employment obligation in the following settings as alternatives to California CWS:

1. A reservation or rancheria providing CWS in California,
2. An Urban Indian agency in California serving IV-E eligible children and families, or
3. A Tribal reservation providing CWS in another state

Non-Native Americans may complete their work requirements in: 1) A reservation or rancheria providing CWS in California or 2) An Urban Indian agency in California serving IV-E eligible children and families.

Program/Work Interruption & Monetary Repayment Requirements

Students/graduates are responsible for payback of stipends, interest, and any costs of collection under the following circumstances (Note: Title IV-E Funds, because it involves federal funds, cannot be discharged in the event one files for bankruptcy):

- Failure to maintain good academic standing in the MSW program (below a 3.0 GPA or poor field performance);
- Failure to complete the MSW within the standard two-year period (unless a hardship extension is granted);
- Failure to accept appropriate employment;
- Failure to qualify for employment, as a result of failing an interview or other applicant requirements, and/or criminal clearances or applicable requirements;
- A felony conviction during MSW program participation and/or employment obligation period;
- Conviction of a crime involving harm to children;
- Voluntary termination of employment before completion of the work requirement (unless a hardship extension is granted);
- Termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor or improper conduct; or
- Violation of the NASW Code of Ethics.

Requirements

- 1) Applicant must have already been accepted into the full-time MSW Program at CSUEB and returned confirmation of attendance;
- 2) Applicant must maintain the status of a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, or hold a work permit and driver's license under federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) rules throughout Program participation including the employment obligation. Student/Graduate holding DACA status must disclose this status to prospective employers and determine whether the agency has a prohibition against hiring a person with DACA status. In the event a Student/Graduate with DACA status is unable to secure qualified employment and complete the employment obligation, Student/Graduate may be liable to repay all or a portion of support received.
- 3) Applicant must have a valid California driver's license and use of a registered vehicle with automobile insurance while in the MSW program, and all through the post-graduation employment obligation period;
- 4) Current employees of county Departments of Social Services must (a) be on educational leave (i.e., not receiving pay from the agency during the academic year); and (b) submit a letter of support from agency director;
- 5) Applicant who enters the IV-E MSW program from the IV-E BASW program must complete BASW employment obligation prior to IV-E MSW program entry unless Student has received formal deferral of the BASW employment obligation.
- 6) Applicants must be able to meet the requirements of county child welfare worker positions that generally include, but are not limited to, the following physical characteristics: Ability to perform work in a variety of settings inside and outside of buildings including work in wet and dry weather conditions; work in confined spaces; work closely with others and alone; drive a vehicle; lift and carry children and objects; manipulate papers, files and other equipment; may perform work while sitting, standing, walking, bending, reaching and stooping; must be able to communicate verbally with coworkers and participants; be able to see things up close or far away; have depth perception; grasp small objects; and hear well.

Pre-Screening

The Title IV-E Stipend Program will require applicants to secure an internship as well as employment with county child welfare agencies. As such, all applicants must be able to meet the internship/hiring requirements of county child welfare agencies. Consequently, applicants must agree to being pre-screened for future county employment. Selected applicants are required to participate in the criminal clearance process as required by the Department of Justice and other applicable regulations and submit a DMV printout of their driving record for the past ten (10) years. Applicants with poor driving record may be disqualified. Misdemeanor and felony convictions for crimes against children, assault, drugs and driving under the influence may also disqualify an applicant. If a student's criminal record/history of child abuse allegation/driving record prevents one from securing an appropriate field placement, the student will also not be allowed to remain in the Title IV-E Program.

Selection Process

The selection of stipend recipients is a 3-step process:

I. Review of Written Applications: Awards committee members carefully review applications and select applicants to interview. Selection is based on the applicant's statement of interest. Years of case management experience in the field of child welfare weigh significantly in the selection. Priority is given to current county and state Department of Social Services employees and applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

II. Candidate Oral Interview and Written Exam: Second, selected applicants will be notified of their oral interview and written exam date and time. An awards committee, consisting of both CSUEB MSW Program faculty/administration and agency representatives from county child welfare services, makes award decisions.

III. Background and Driving Record Screening Clearance: Finally, if chosen to receive the stipend, applicants must submit to background and driving record screening, and only upon the clearance of this screening process will the final stipend award be made. All stipends are awarded on the condition that applicants pass required background checks, submit requested documentation and do not have a driving record that will preclude placement or employment in county child welfare services agencies. Applicants who fail to pass the background checks, lack any of the required documentation or have a driving record that will preclude them from placement and/or employment will be considered ineligible and be disqualified from the program.

Application

All students who meet normal CSUEB MSW admissions standards and IV-E requirements (see section above on "Requirements") and who have a genuine interest in child welfare (see section above on "What is Public Child Welfare? Is the Title IV-E Program a Good Fit For Me?") are eligible to apply.

Whereas a confirmed admission to the CSUEB MSW Program is an eligibility requirement for the Title IV-E Program, ***not all students accepted into the MSW Program and who apply to the Title IV-E Program will be selected to participate in the IV-E Program.***

The Title IV-E Application deadline is ***Dec 16, 2019***, and applications are to be submitted along with your general MSW admission applications to the department. ***Please note that all incomplete applications or applications received after the deadline will not be considered.***

If you have any questions about the Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program, please email Professor Siang Sin Goh, MSW, M.Ed., Title IV-E Program Coordinator at siangsin.goh@csueastbay.edu.

Link to Title IV-E Application:

<http://www.csueastbay.edu/sw/files/docs/title-ive-app.pdf>