

Overview of the Harvey L. and Maud C. Sorensen Fellowship Program in Childhood Mental Health

The Harvey L. and Maud C. Sorensen Fellowship Program in Childhood Mental Health (Sorensen CMH Fellowship) is funded by the Harvey L. and Maud C. Sorensen Foundation. The Sorensen CMH Fellowship provides specialized training and support to a cohort of MSW students during their advanced/final year of study who graduate with a demonstrated commitment to and specialized training in childhood mental health with the goal of meeting community needs in this critical area of social work practice.

Trainee Eligibility Criteria

The Sorensen CMH Fellowship is open to MSW students who are:

- Enrolled in the CSUEB MSW Program
- Entering their advanced/final year of MSW study in good academic standing
- Matched/matching with a practicum internship for 20-24 hours per week throughout the academic year in a setting that serves children and youth where they work to provide primarily clinical mental health and psychotherapeutic interventions to children/youth with mental health conditions.

Trainee Selection Criteria

The Sorensen CMH Fellowship seeks MSW students who demonstrate:

- Interest in and commitment to serving children and youth who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, a mental health condition
- An ability to meet the needs of diverse communities in the Bay Area, including youth from low-income families, those whose primary language is not English, LGBTQ+ youth, youth who have recently immigrated to the United States, and those with a dual diagnosis of mental health and substance abuse disorders
- **Strong and sustained commitment** to MSW CMH careers as evinced by their commitment to working with children and youth as described above for up to three years after graduation and reporting annually on employment outcomes.

Trainee Award Guidelines

- MSW students will be accepted to the training program for their advanced/final year only.
- MSW students will complete a practicum internship for 20-24 hours per week throughout the academic year in a setting that provides clinical mental health and psychotherapeutic services to children and youth with mental health conditions including schools, child-focused public mental health clinics, children's hospitals, juvenile detention centers, and shelters for homeless youth. Student interns should be directly and primarily providing clinical mental health therapy to children and/or youth at their placement.
- MSW students will participate in a monthly training focused on topics related to serving children and youth with mental health conditions such as developmental issues, family support challenges, trauma, depression, anxiety, learning differences and creating trauma-informed schools/agencies.
- MSW students will be expected to complete their capstone projects on a topic related to childhood mental health.
- MSW students will be tracked for three years following graduation and be required to complete an annual survey on employment outcomes.

- Upon graduation, MSW students will be encouraged to support current students through volunteering on the community mental health advisory board, mentoring current students, and/or serving as mock interviewers for students preparing to enter the job market. Engagement in these activities will also be tracked.

Application Procedures

Current eligible MSW students will be provided with more information on the application process for participation in the 2026-2027 program.

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.

Stipend Awards

Stipends are \$25,000 per academic year, for one year only (the final year of study). Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements: \$12,500 in the fall semester; \$12,500 in the spring semester.

Training Requirements

Advanced/final year trainees must complete all Advanced Practice courses, training, and projects as required and/or specified by the MSW program.

Practicum Training Requirements

Advanced/final year practicum training must focus on the student providing childhood mental health services. Eligible practicum training sites include settings that serve children and youth with mental health conditions including schools, child-focused public mental health clinics, children's hospitals, juvenile detention centers, and shelters for homeless youth.

Practicum Seminar Expectations

Advanced/final year trainees' practicum seminar will include significant focus on childhood mental health training focused on topics related to serving children and youth with mental health conditions such as developmental issues, family support challenges, trauma, depression, anxiety, learning differences and creating trauma-informed schools/agencies.

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 info at MSW graduation; completing annual follow-up surveys as requested and on time for at least three years after graduation; completing the post-graduation service obligation.

Eligible service settings include those that serve children and youth who are experiencing, or are at risk of experiencing, a mental health condition and which provide mental health services to these children and youth.

If you have any questions about the Sorensen CMH Fellowship, please email tracey.zahradka@csueastbay.edu.