

Revised January 24, 2019

Overview

This one-year stipend of \$18,500 is available to second year MSW students, including from the Virtual Academic Center (VAC), who graduate in the spring semester and who want to pursue a career in the field of public mental health in California.

This program is funded by the California Office of Statewide Health, Planning and Development (OSHPD) as a collaborative between California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) - which is housed at UC Berkeley - and several graduate programs of social work, including ours at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. This program is designed to prepare social workers for careers in public mental health settings that are recovery based.

Please keep in mind that this program relies on external funding every year.

There are four main target groups in this initiative:

1. Adults with serious mental illnesses.
2. Older adults with mental illnesses.
3. Children with serious emotional problems and their families.
4. Transitional age youth (16-25), at high risk for mental illness and substance abuse.

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify and remain eligible for this integrated behavioral health stipend, recipients must do the following.

1. Be entering the second year of study, with a graduation date of that following May.
2. Be enrolled in the “on-the-ground” MSW program.
 - a. Eligibility for VAC students will be assessed on a case-by-case basis due to strict contract requirements. The three essential requirements for VAC students are:
 - i. Must graduate the spring of 2020.
 - ii. Must complete field education (internship) the spring of 2020.
 - iii. Must apply for this stipend program during Virtual Field Practicum (VFP) in the spring of 2019.
 - b. For applicable requirements listed below, VAC students can participate virtually if doing so in-person would be unreasonable.
3. Be from either the department of Adult Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW) or Children, Youth and Families (CYF).
4. Maintain good academic standing with a 3.0 or better GPA and satisfactory performance in field placement.
5. Attend an orientation in early to mid-August on or near the University Park Campus (UPC).
6. Participate in a specialized training sessions throughout the academic year. Attendance is mandatory and active participation is an expectation.

7. Attend a trauma-informed training in August prior to the beginning of the fall semester. This training will take place before classes begin, on or near UPC.
8. Complete a field placement with a county mental health agency or an agency contracted by a county mental health agency in California.
 - a. *Please note that placements must be in out-patient settings, NO locked/non-voluntary in-patient facilities, including state hospitals and detention centers, are acceptable placements for this stipend.*
9. Dual enrollment students must be able to complete all stipend program requirements.
10. Must be able to legally work in the United States
 - a. International students are not eligible unless they show proof, at the time of application, of eligibility to work in the United States upon graduation.
11. Must pass a criminal record background check – Live Scan prints will be required when applying for employment.
12. **Successfully complete elective course requirements as follows for AMHW students:**
 - a. Complete 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults and complete a second elective from this group:
 - i. 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults
 - ii. 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
 - iii. 653 Social Work Practice with Older Adults
13. **Successfully complete elective course requirements as follows for CYF students:**
 - b. Complete **677** Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbance **and** complete a second elective from this group:
 - i. 602 Contemporary Family Therapy and Social Work Practice
 - ii. 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
 - iii. 620 Social Work Practice with Transition Age Youth

Payback Commitment

In exchange for the CalSWEC MHSA stipend, students agree to work upon graduation, for at least one calendar year, in a payback-eligible position at DMH within the state of California, or at one of its contracted agencies. Students must agree to participate in a monitoring system during the payback period. All CalSWEC MHSA stipend recipients are placed in a separate pool in the Los Angeles County DMH hiring system, which is a hiring advantage.

Counties of Need

There is a high need to recruit students who can complete internship and/or employment payback requirement in the following counties:

- *(Bay Area)* Marin, Napa, San Benito, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma;
- *(Central)* Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Sutter, Tuolumne, Tulare, Yolo, Yuba;
- *(Southern)* Imperial, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
- *(Superior)* Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity.

Application Process

Applications are due on **March 8, 2019 by 5:00 p.m.**, and are evaluated and scored. The highest scoring applicants will be contacted for an interview. **Interviews will be held during late March and throughout April.** Awards will be made on the basis of the quality of the application and the interview. You may apply to both the CalSWEC IBH-MHSA and the Los Angeles County DMH stipends (using the same application) by checking both boxes on the application, however, you can only receive one stipend. **Applicants must complete the packet in full.**

Please note that if you receive this award, it will impact your financial aid package. A representative from the School's Scholarship Program Office will meet with all awardees during the orientation to discuss any questions that you may have related to the stipend.

Questions: Please contact Prof. Holly Priebe Sotelo at hsotelo@usc.edu.