

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 Los Angeles County. The goal is to increase the public mental health workforce with qualified individuals **committed** to providing services in high priority areas.

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

Stipend Objectives

1. To recruit graduate students who have linguistic capacity to provide services in one of the threshold languages in areas identified as high need. The threshold languages include Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Farsi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and additional Chinese dialects.
2. To recruit graduate students who have cultural competency and the capacity to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive services to consumers in areas identified as high need.
3. **To recruit graduate students who would be employed to serve in areas the Los Angeles County has designated as a workforce priority. These areas are currently identified as Service Area 1 (Antelope Valley), Service Area 4 (Downtown Los Angeles), Service Area 6 (South Los Angeles), Service Area 7 (East Los Angeles), services in juvenile justice programs throughout the county, Specialized Foster Care (Katie A), and programs funded through the Mental Health Services Act.**
4. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to veterans, either through internship training or through curriculum specialization.
5. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to older adults, either through internship training or through curriculum specialization.
6. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to the homeless population, either through internship training or through curriculum specialization.
7. To recruit graduate students who have prior experience in the mental health delivery system of the LACDMH through previous or current employment or through internship training.

Stipend Commitment

LACDMH will be awarding educational stipends of \$18,500 to eligible graduates. Stipend recipients will need to be employed full-time for one year in a public mental health agency, either directly operated by or contracted with LACDMH, within 3 months after graduation.

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify and remain eligible for this mental health stipend, recipients must do the following:

1. Be entering the second year of study, with a graduation date of the 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.
3. Be from any of the three MSW departments (AMHW, CYF, or SCI).
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. Attend a stipend information meeting at Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health in the fall.
7. Participate in a specialized training sessions throughout the academic year. Attendance is mandatory and active participation is an expectation.
8. 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.
9. Complete a field placement with a LACDMH-operated or LACDMH-contracted mental health agency.
10. Dual enrollment students must be able to complete all stipend program requirements.
11. 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.
12. Must pass a criminal record background check – Live Scan prints will be required when applying for employment.
13. **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
14. **Successfully complete elective course requirements as follows for CYF students:**
 - a. 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
15. **Successfully complete elective course requirements as follows for SCI students:**
 - a. Complete 612 Assessment and Diagnosis of mental disorders **and** 617 Substance abuse with Consideration of other Addictive Disorders. Third elective is highly encouraged from this group:
 - i. 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults
 - ii. 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults
 - iii. 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbance

Students who take the 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery elective in the second semester of their first year will have a stronger application.

Notes:

1. Students in the Department of Children, Youth and Families may earn a Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC), as long as they also fully meet the requirements of the stipend program.
2. Students with abilities in one of the threshold languages in Los Angeles are highly desirable.

Recruitment of Eligible Students

Students will be recruited from the MSW schools that participate in the Inter-University Consortium of Social Work Schools. LACDMH has partnered with the Inter-University Consortium in addressing the County's shortage of qualified mental health practitioners capable of providing culturally and linguistically competent services in certain geographic areas or specialized treatment programs.

Administration of the stipend program on behalf of this partnership is provided by the LACDMH in conjunction with the Long Beach Foundation, Long Beach, CA.

Payback Commitment

In exchange for the LACDMH Mental Health stipend, students agree to work, upon graduation, for at least one calendar year, in a payback-eligible position in a directly-operated or county-contracted mental health agency in a geographical or programmatic area in Los Angeles County designated by DMH to have high need and/or hard to fill. All DMH stipend recipients are placed in a separate pool in the LACDMH hiring system, which is a hiring advantage.

LAC DMH Information/Contract Signing Session

Applicants awarded a stipend must attend an Orientation Session conducted by LACDMH, which will be held at a LACDMH facility to be determined. **Attendance at the Orientation Session is required of all stipend awardees.** The *LACDMH Stipend Contract* will be distributed and signed during the Orientation Session. The contract is an agreement between LACDMH and the student and outlines the responsibilities of each party. The contract also outlines options for stipend repayment if the stipend recipient does not graduate by June 30, 2020, does not obtain employment in a LACDMH agency, or does not complete one-year employment in a LACDMH agency.

Distribution of Stipend Amount

The stipend funds will be dispensed to student-awardees through the Long Beach Foundation and is intended to occur within 60 days* of the Orientation Session when all students have signed the county contract.

Typically, students who participate in this program receive the stipend sometime in late December.

** Pending finalization by LACDMH and transfer of funds to the Long Beach Foundation.*

Verification of Employment

Students awarded a stipend will need to verify obtaining employment in a LACDMH, or LACDMH contracted agency, to be in compliance with the contract agreement. To verify employment, an administrator of that agency will need to submit the *DMH Verification of Employment Form*. The form will verify that the agency is a

LACDMH contracted facility and that the stipend recipient has been employed as a mental health provider. The form will also verify if the stipend recipient is employed in a designated high need area, and/or is providing services to consumers using one of the threshold languages. The verification form needs to be mailed to the Long Beach Foundation by the agency's administrator. This form will be made available to the student once the stipends are awarded.

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. **Disbursement of this stipend typically occurs late in the fall semester.**

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