

Opioid Workforce Expansion Program

Revised January 18, 2021

Overview

This one-year stipend of \$10,000 is available to second year MSW students who graduate in the spring (ideally) or summer semester and who want to pursue a career in the field of substance abuse and integrated behavioral health, specifically prevention, treatment and recovery of opioid use disorder (OUD) and substance use disorder (SUD). This stipend program is open to campus-based (UPC) and Virtual Academic Center (VAC) MSW students.

This initiative focuses on enhancing the education and inter-professional training of MSW students who are committed to providing improved integrated behavioral health services to address OUD/SUD. The goal is to expose students to the best evidence-based, strengths-based practice models in integrated behavioral health to prevent, treat and recover from OUD/SUD.

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

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify and remain eligible for this opioid workforce expansion stipend, recipients must do the following:

1. Must be in last year of MSW program and be from the Department of Adult Mental Health and Wellness (AMHW) or the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (CYF).
2. Must secure a specific field placement that has been identified to be part this stipend program.
 - a. Please review second page of this document for a list of targeted field placements.
3. Must remain in a qualified field placement for a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of twelve (12) months preceding graduation.
4. Complete and maintain satisfactory academic progress – meaning 3.0 or better GPA – and performance in courses, trainings, field placement, and any other requirements of this stipend program.
5. Must attend an orientation meeting during the summer in mid-August.
6. Must attend and adequately participate in bi-weekly 2-hour training sessions – total of 14 sessions during the **fall and spring semesters** – that are intended to enhance professional development in prevention, treatment and recovery from OUD/SUD.
7. Must attend and adequately participate in inter-professional training sessions that are customized for UPC and VAC students.
8. Must complete the following elective as part of their MSW program:
 - a. SOWK 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Behaviors and Recovery
9. Must complete one (1) of the following electives as part of their MSW program (if and when offered):
 - o SOWK 612 Psychopathology and Diagnosis of Mental Disorder
 - o SOWK 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents
 - o SOWK 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults

- SOWK 641 Clinical Practice with Service Members and Veterans
 - SOWK 692 Loss, Grief & Bereavement
 - PM 501 Foundations in Health Education and Promotion
 - PM 508 Health Service Delivery in the US
10. Dual degree students must be able to complete all stipend program requirements but might receive a waiver not to take a second elective.
- 11. *Must be a citizen of the United States, a non-citizen national of the United States or a foreign national who possesses a visa permitting permanent residence in the United States.***
- a. Individuals on temporary or student visas are not eligible to participate.**

Please keep in mind that this is comprehensive but not exhaustive list of all qualifications and requirements of this stipend program.

Number of Stipends and Targeted Field Placements

There are close to 30 stipends available with a plan to award evenly to campus-based and VAC students. The following is a list of agencies **targeted** to offer the field placements eligible for the Coast to Coast Project stipends:

UPC

- SHIELDS for Families Inc.
- Las Encinas Hospital and Recovery Center
- United American Indian Involvement Inc.
- Covenant House
- Daniel's Place
- Law Enforcement
- Jewish Family Service - Alcohol Drug Action Program
- Step on Second - Hollywood
- Children's Hospital of Los Angeles - Adolescent Medicine
- Long Beach Memorial - Miller Children's and Women's Hospital

You must declare your interest in the Coast to Coast Project stipend if you are able to secure an interview for one or more of the targeted agencies for UPC students.

VAC

- Eligible agencies will be approved through the field placement process once a VAC student is identified meeting the following requirements:
 - Must graduate the spring (ideally) or summer of 2022.
 - Must complete field education (internship) the spring (ideally) or summer of 2022.
 - Must apply for this stipend program during the spring of 2021.

Stipend recipients are primarily selected by field placement agencies in coordination with faculty responsible for this program.

Please note that if you end up receiving this stipend award, your financial aid package will be impacted. A representative from the School's Scholarship Program Office (SPO) will meet with all awardees during a webinar over the summer and at orientation in mid-August to discuss any financial aid questions that you may have related to the stipend.

Questions: Prof. Umeka Franklin at ufrankli@usc.edu for UPC or
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