The CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program is funded by the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) as part of a statewide behavioral health workforce development initiative. The program aims to better prepare MSW students to provide effective, evidence-based behavioral health care in publicly funded programs and settings, and to support the integration of behavioral health care services with other public services and systems. Additionally, it seeks to enhance the retention and development of MSWs in public behavioral health programs and settings in California.

**PROGRAM FUNDING AND GOALS**

The CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program is open to MSW students who meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled in participating MSW programs as full-time, part-time, or advanced standing students.
- Entering either a foundation year or an advanced year of MSW study in good academic standing.
- Matched/matching with practicum placements for the training year at sites that receive public funding to provide behavioral health care services.
- Not receiving funding support from any other HCAI administered training or scholarship program.

**TRAINEE ELIGIBILITY and SELECTION CRITERIA**

The Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program seeks MSW students who demonstrate:

- Interest in and commitment to learning about the issues, challenges, and needs specific to behavioral health care practice in public service settings.
• Linguistic and cultural competencies that align with the needs of underserved consumers in California.

• Strong and sustained commitment to MSW careers as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded programs and settings in California.

CalSWEC has created a Qualtrics-based training program application that will be used by all participating MSW programs. MSW programs will share the application with potential applicants as a Qualtrics link. Interested students should submit completed applications by their MSW program’s due date. CalSWEC will provide application data to each MSW program as requested/after the due date.

For students applying for CalSWEC’s PBH MSW Training Program at USC, eligibility means students graduating in:

• **Spring semester** - Will receive the highest priority in the selection process.
• **Summer semester** - Can apply for now but they will receive lower priority until the school can evaluate case-by-case if a student will be able to complete training requirements on time.
• **Fall semester** - Are not eligible to apply at this stage.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURES**

MSW programs will review all submitted applications, rate, and select awardees. MSW programs will notify selected trainees after verifying their field placement eligibility for the training year. CalSWEC will also verify field placement eligibility in the fall, before trainees sign student service agreements and receive stipend funding.

**PBH MSW Training Program Application**

**TRAINEE SELECTION PROCESS**

Stipends for full-time students (based on campus enrollment rules) are $25,000 per academic year. Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements: $12,500 in mid to late fall semester and $12,500 in mid-spring semester. Stipends for part-time students (based on campus enrollment rules) are $12,500 per academic year. Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements: $6,250 in mid to late fall semester and $6,250 in mid-spring semester.

Foundation year trainees must complete all required general and behavioral health-focused courses as specified by the MSW program. Advanced year trainees must complete all behavioral health-focused courses as required and/or specified by the MSW program.
Foundation year practicum training must focus on the student contributing to the delivery of publicly funded behavioral health care services. Advanced year practicum training must focus on the student providing publicly funded behavioral health services. Eligible practicum training sites include community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, as well as child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court, and adult corrections units that offer publicly funded behavioral health care programs and services.

PRACTICUM TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Foundation year and Advanced year trainees must register for their respective first- and second-year practicum seminars (SOWK 591, SOWK 593 or SOWK 691, SOWK 693) with an identified CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health faculty member. In addition, students will be required to fulfill other course requirements to be determined in the near future.

PRACTICUM SEMINAR EXPECTATIONS

Trainees must commit to the following:

- 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 information at MSW graduation.
- Completing annual follow-up surveys as requested and on time for at least five years after graduation.
- Completing the post-graduation service obligation.
- Pursuing LCSW licensure.

ADDITIONAL TRAINING COMMITMENTS

For each year of training participation, graduates must provide the equivalent of 12 months of full-time service as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded behavioral health programs and settings. Eligible service settings include community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools and colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, and child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court, and adult corrections units with publicly funded behavioral health programs and services. Graduates must verify their pursuit of LCSW licensure through BBS registration and the accrual of required hours.
POST-GRADUATION SERVICE OBLIGATION

Training program graduates who fail to complete the required service obligation by the deadline based on their graduation date will be required to repay the stipend funding to their MSW program. Graduates who fulfill none of the service obligation will be required to repay all stipend funding in full. Graduates who fulfill some but not all of the service obligation will be required to repay a prorated amount based on the total hours of eligible service completed. Stipend funding repayment plans typically include stipend funding, interest, and processing fees.

TRACKING AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

If you have any questions regarding the eligibility of specific practicum placements for the Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program, please email Christina Paddock, associate professor of social work practicum education, at cpaddock@usc.edu.

For additional inquiries about the CalSWEC Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program or the application process, feel free to email Dr. E. Maxwell Davis at emdavis@berkeley.edu.