Social Work in Juvenile Justice Minor Program Application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name: _____ Middle Initial: ___ Last Name: _____

Local Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Telephone: (____) _____ Cell Phone: (____) _____

Email: _____ Birthdate: Click or tap to enter a date.

Expected Graduation Month, Year: _____

☐ *Check this box to confirm you read and understand the information on Social Work and Juvenile Justice Minor Stipend Information Sheet.*

Languages spoken other than English: _____ _____ _____

Degree of fluency: (check one for each)

☐1 ☐ 2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5 ☐ 1 ☐2 ☐3 ☐4 ☐5

1- Can understand some, cannot engage in a conversation; 3- Can understand and speak moderately;
5- Can understand and speak, write, and read fluently

Justice Involved History:

This grant supports applicants with lived experiences. A past conviction will not exclude acceptance into this stipend program. However, Certain agencies require that students in the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work at the University of Southern California obtain and pass a background check, health screening/vaccinations, drug test and/or fingerprinting to participate in practicum placements (The Practicum Education courses). Students may be required to undergo a background check before beginning a practicum placement as part of the Social Work in Juvenile Justice Minor program in the USC Suzanne Dworak Peck School of Social Work.

The Practicum Department has identified agencies committed to social justice and anti-oppressive work that welcome all students (i.e. have justice involved history). If you are placed at an agency that does not host students with a justice involved history, the practicum placement team/practicum liaison will provide additional options.

If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in the last three years and you were over the age of 18 when convicted, please attach a separate sheet with date(s), charges, location(s) and penalties. You do not need to include offenses that occurred prior to your 18th birthday, traffic violations with fines of $500.00 or less (unless the traffic violation resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction), or expunged offenses.

☐Not Applicable ☐Description Attached

Do you have an automobile for placement related travel? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Essay Question

Please type your responses to the following question in a separate document. Include your name on each response page. Your responses are neither right nor wrong but will serve as a means of assessing the fit between you and the identified population. Your answers to the question should be no less than half a page and no more than two (2) pages in length- single or double-spaced. The use of AI tools in drafting essay responses may disqualify you from the application process

Question #1:

Case Scenario
Christian is a 16-year-old Black Latino male referred to community-based services following his second school suspension for fighting. Teachers describe him as intelligent but easily provoked. Christian lives with his mother and two younger siblings (ages 11 and 9) in a low-income apartment. His mother works two jobs, leaving Christian to care for his siblings after school.

Christian reports feeling "disrespected" by teachers and peers and says, "No one listens unless I get loud." Recently, he was caught trespassing with friends at an abandoned building. Law enforcement issued a warning but did not press charges.

Christian's mother is frustrated, stating she fears he will "end up in jail like his cousins" She wants him to "stop acting up" but also says she doesn't have time to attend parent meetings. Christian admits he sometimes vapes to "veg out" and enjoys riding his electric scooter and writing poems as an outlet.

1.) What are the primary concerns in Christian's situation? What strengths do you see?
2.) How might systemic factors (e.g., race, poverty, school discipline policies, law enforcement practices) influence Christian's experiences?

Video Submission

As part of your application to the **Social Work in Juvenile Justice Stipend Program**, please record and submit a **3-minute video** responding to the following:

In your video, please address:

1. What attracted you to apply for the SSJW program?
2. What specific contributions will you bring to the program?
3. How will you apply the newly attained knowledge and skills from this program into your future career?

Guidelines:

- **Length:** 3 minutes maximum
- **Format:** Speak directly to the camera (professional yet conversational). Use Zoom recording.

Please submit all application materials to Melissa Woolley, Project Specialist, at woolleym@usc.edu