

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) about the TITLE IV-E BASW PROGRAM*

Q: What is the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program?

A: The Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program provides one year of support in the amount of \$15,000 for the final year of study for full-time students who complete the BASW program in preparation for careers in public child welfare.

Part-time students, who must be current employees of a county Department of Social Services or the California Department of Social Services (CDSS), receive tuition and fees, costs for required books, and a travel allowance for each day of class or fieldwork for either two or three years, depending on the program.

The Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program is part of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) for California State University (CSU) and University of California campuses. The training program was developed to promote the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and supports to BASW and MSW students who commit to a career in public or Tribal child welfare. Title IV-E of the Social Security Act authorized the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs to provide federal matching funds to states for directly administering the training programs.

Q: Which schools participate in the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program?

A: Seven schools participate in the Title IV-E BASW program: the CSU campuses at Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and San Diego. CSU, Long Beach also coordinates distance education sites for other CSU campuses.

Q: How many stipends are available?

A: Each of the seven participating schools may award up to 30 stipends to full- and/or part-time students.

Q: What is the application process for full-time students?

A: Undergraduate students must be enrolled full time at one of the seven campuses offering the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program. Upon declaration of the major and satisfactory completion of all relevant coursework, the student may apply for admission to the stipend program.

CalSWEC's Mission

CalSWEC facilitates and supports statewide partnerships for the education and training of social workers to ensure culturally responsive, effective, and high-quality health and social service delivery to the people of California.

GOALS

In support of its Mission, CalSWEC's Goals are to:

- Prepare a diverse group of social workers for careers in human services, with special emphasis in the fields of child welfare, integrated behavioral health, and aging;
- Define and operationalize a continuum of social work education and training;
- Engage in evaluation, research, and dissemination of best practices in social work.

Current employees of county Departments of Social Services are given admission preference, but they must be on educational leave (i.e., not receiving pay from the agency during the academic year) to receive the full-time stipend. The employees may work during break periods and summers and may perform fieldwork in their agency subject to school policies. Stipend recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

Q: What is the application process for part-time students?

A: Undergraduate students must be enrolled part time at one of the seven CSU campuses offering the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program. Upon declaration of the major and satisfactory completion of all relevant coursework, the student may apply for admission to the stipend program. Admittance to part-time Title IV-E study is limited to current employees of county Departments of Social Services or public child welfare services agencies or of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Applicants must have a letter of support from their agency director. Support recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

Q: How are students selected for the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program?

A: At each school an awards committee, consisting of both faculty/administration and agency representatives from county child welfare services, makes award decisions. Priority is given to current county Department of Social Services and CDSS employees and to applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

Q: What are the academic requirements for the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program?

A: Students must complete the entire BASW child welfare program at their school, including all designated fieldwork for BASW-level education. The total fieldwork requirement must be in a county child welfare agency serving Title IV-E children and families.

Q: What is the student's work commitment after graduation?

A: Upon graduation, full- or part-time students must work in a county child welfare services agency or the CDSS Child Welfare Division for 12 months.

A part-time student who is currently employed in a county Department of Social Services or the CDSS must return to that agency at a level appropriate to a new BASW in public child welfare. If a position meeting these requirements is not available in the agency to which service is owed, the student must apply for and accept a BASW-equivalent or higher position in any California county child welfare services agency or the CDSS within one year of graduation.

A student who is not a current employee must apply for and accept a BASW-level position in any California county child welfare services agency or the CDSS within one year of graduation.

Q: What are options for working with Native American children and families to satisfy the work commitment?

A: Native American/American Indian graduates may complete their work commitment in the following settings as alternatives to California child welfare services:

- a reservation or rancheria providing child welfare services in California,
- an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E-eligible children and families,
- a Tribal reservation providing CWS in another state, if the services provided can be considered a public assistance program or exigent circumstances exist to compel such employment.

Q: What role do participating counties have in the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program?

A: Participating counties develop educational leave policies, publicize the program, agree to re-employ trainees as long as jobs are available, provide quality fieldwork with MSW supervision in accordance with school requirements, seek to schedule hiring procedures to fit graduate employment time restrictions, and seek to give hiring preference to graduates. A number of county directors serve on the CalSWEC Advisory Board.

Q: How can persons interested in the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program obtain more information about applying to a participating school?

A: They should directly contact the school they want to attend: CSU at Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, Sacramento, San Bernardino, or San Diego.

Questions?

For answers to questions about the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program:

- Contact the school in your area and the Title IV-E BASW Stipend Program at the school. If you're not sure which school that is, review the seven schools offering the BASW program here: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program/prospective-students>;
- On CalSWEC's website, visit the Title IV-E Stipend Program, <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/title-iv-e-stipend-program>; or
- Contact CalSWEC at 510-642-9272 (phone).