

**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
LONG BEACH**



**Frequently
Asked
Questions**



**The BASW Public Child Welfare
Title IV-E Stipend Program**

*A collaborative project of the California Department of Social Services,
the County Welfare Directors Association,
California's graduate schools of social work and social welfare, and
the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.*

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1.

Q: How did the financial assistance program develop for the Bachelor of Arts in Social Work (BASW) students specializing in public child welfare?

A: In 1990, the deans and directors of California's then-ten graduate schools of social work and the County Welfare Directors Association, with the help of the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers and with funding from the Ford Foundation, collaborated to create the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC). CalSWEC's goal is to improve the education and training of social workers for the publicly supported social services.

In 1992, CalSWEC entered into a contract with the California Department of Social Services to develop the Title IV-E [of the Social Security Act] MSW program to prepare and provide financial assistance for students and graduates for careers in public child welfare. This consortium has since grown to include 21 California schools of social work. In 2003–2004, work began to develop a BASW program, much the same as the MSW one. In fall 2004, the first cohort of this program began.

2.

Q: What is the funding source for the stipend program?

A: Financial support for the BASW students is provided through federal Title IV-E training funds managed by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and administered through the California Department of Social Services.

3.

Q: What is Title IV-E?

A: 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 programs. Its objectives were to improve the quality of care of children in foster care, reduce the number of children in foster care, return children to their homes as soon as conditions permit, and facilitate the adoption or permanent placement of children who cannot be returned to their homes.

4.

Q: How much financial assistance is provided?

A: The Title IV-E stipends provide one year of support for **full-time** students who complete the BASW program with appropriate specialization in preparation for careers in public child welfare. Effective fall 2004, the stipend amount is \$15,000 for the final year of study in the BASW program.

Part-time students, limited to current employees of a county or the State Department of Social Services, 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.

5.

Q: How many stipends are available?

A: Each of the six Title IV-E BASW programs—California State University campuses at Chico, Fresno, Humboldt, Long Beach, San Bernardino, and San Diego—may award up to 30 student slots per academic year, which may be a combination of full- and/or part-time students. CSU, Long Beach also coordinates distance education sites for other CSU campuses.

6.

Q: How do full-time students qualify for financial support in the Title IV-E BASW program?

A: Undergraduate students must be enrolled **full-time** at one of the six California State University campuses that offers a Title IV-E BASW program. 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, must have a valid driver's license and secure the use of a car, as required for fieldwork, and undergo prescreening for county employment, which may include a criminal background clearance, and medical and psychological examinations. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

7.

Q: How do *part-time* students qualify for financial assistance in the Title IV-E BASW program?

A: Undergraduate students must be enrolled **part-time** at one of the six California State University campuses (see no. 5) that offer a Title IV-E BASW program.

Admittance to the **part-time** CalSWEC BASW program is limited to current employees of county Departments of Social Services, or public child welfare services agencies, or the California Department of Social Services.

Applicants must have a letter of support from the director of their agency. Support recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization, as defined by the school.

Recipients must be a citizen or permanent resident of the United States, have a valid driver's license, and secure the use of a car (as required for fieldwork), and undergo prescreening for county employment, which may include a criminal background clearance, and medical and psychological examinations. They must also fulfill a work commitment upon graduation.

8.

Q: How are students selected to receive the financial assistance?

A: Currently enrolled students may apply for Title IV-E financial assistance by completing application forms specific to the Title IV-E program. 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- and state Department of Social Services employees, and to applicants who reflect the diverse client populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

9.

Q: What academic requirements must students fulfill to receive financial assistance?

A: Students must complete the entire BASW child welfare program at their school, including all designated fieldwork for BASW-level education. The senior-year 450-hour fieldwork requirement must be in a county child welfare agency serving Title IV-E children and families.

10.

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

A: Upon graduation, **full- or part-time students** must work in a full-time BASW-level position in a county child welfare services agency or California Department of Social Services (CDSS) child welfare division for one year. A student who *is* currently employed in a county or by the State Department of Social Services 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 within the agency to which service is owed, the student must apply for and accept an equivalent or higher position in a county child welfare services agency within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. If this is not available, the student must search for, apply for, and accept, a BASW-equivalent or higher position in any California county child welfare services agency or with the California Department of Social Services.

A student who *is not* a current employee must apply for and accept a position appropriate to a new BASW in a public child welfare services agency within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. If no position is available within 75 miles, the student must search for, apply for, and accept, a BASW-level position in any California county child welfare services agency or with the California Department of Social Services.

11.

Q: What options for completing their work commitment are available to Native American Indian graduates?

A: Native American and non-Native American graduates with tribal rights may complete their work commitment in the following settings as alternatives to California child welfare services:

- a. a reservation or Rancheria providing child welfare services in California,
- b. an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E-eligible children and families, or,
- c. a reservation providing child welfare services in another state.