

School of Social Work
CALIFORNIA TITLE IV-E MSW CHILD WELFARE STIPEND PROGRAM
FOR PART-TIME (3-YEAR) STUDENTS

*** Please Note: Stipend awards are contingent upon acceptance to the 3-year MSW Program at SJSU.**

General Information

The School of Social Work at San José State University participates in the statewide Title IV-E stipend program for MSW students preparing for careers in public child welfare practice. This program was developed through a joint effort of the graduate schools of social work and the 58 county social services agencies in California. The stipend program is sponsored by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC). The program is funded through the federal Title IV-E training funds managed by the administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services. The IV-E of the Social Security Act authorized the Foster Care and Adoption assistance Program to provide federal matching funds to states for directly administering the programs. Its objective was 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 of permanent placement of children who cannot be return to their homes. At SJSU, the School of Social Work and the SJSU Research Foundation administer the Title IV-E Program.

Nature of the Stipend

The Title IV-E program will reimburse eligible students in the Part-time MSW Program for their tuition, books and travel expenses for a period of three years. Students must participate in the program all three years of the program. Recipients are required to work in a public child welfare agency in California for at least two years upon graduation.

Eligibility Criteria and Application and Selection Process

To be eligible for this stipend at SJSU, students must be currently employed in county public social services agencies or the California Department of Social Services, Children's Services. Students must also be enrolled in the 3-year MSW program. Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to, and potential for success in, a career in public child welfare services in California.

Those interested in applying for the stipend can obtain an application from the Title IV-E Program office at the School of Social Work (WSQ Hall, Room 215) or online at www.sjsu.edu/title4e/forms.

Applicants are encouraged to attend an orientation meeting. If accepted to the MSW program, applicants are required to attend an in-person interview by the Title IV-E Awards Committee, composed of faculty from the School of Social Work and representatives from county social services agencies. Stipend awards are based on a demonstrated commitment to a career in public child welfare and potential for a successful career in public child welfare services in California. Priority is given to: (1) current employees of county child welfare services agencies and California Department of Social Services, (2) applicants who reflect the diverse client population currently being served by public child welfare agencies in California.

Program Requirements

- Applicants must agree to work in a public child welfare services agency (CWS) in California for at least two (2) years (24 months) of full time upon graduation.
- Applicants must undergo pre-screening for county employment (including fingerprinting, background and criminal record checks) and be found eligible for county employment.
- Applicants must have a valid California driver's license, use of a car as required for fieldwork, and automobile liability insurance.
- Applicants must provide proof of U. S. citizenship or legal permanent residency.
- Current social services agency employees must have a letter of support from their agency director.

Academic Requirements

- Stipend recipients must complete the entire MSW program at SJSU (course and field work) in 3 years.
- Stipend recipients must complete course requirements designated for the "Children, Youth and Families" population-at-risk area of study.
- Stipend recipients must remain in academic good standing, maintain a 3.0 G.P.A. or better every semester and receive credit for satisfactory performance in the field practica.
- Stipend recipients must satisfactorily complete 2 years of field work: the second year must be in a child welfare program of a county social services agency; the first year will be in a related county or nonprofit program serving IV-E eligible child welfare clients.

- Stipend recipients must participate in all Title IV-E seminars, meetings and trainings.
- Stipend recipients must attain at least minimum competence in the California Child Welfare Competencies.
- If a student is not performing satisfactorily in the program, the University may suspend or terminate the stipend.

Delay of Graduation

A student who cannot complete graduation requirements on time because of personal hardship or disability may request postponement of repayment of the stipend for one year. This request must be approved by SJSU and by CalSWEC. If granted, hardship postponements may be extended for one additional year. At the end of the postponement period, the student must return and complete his/her education or repay the stipend. A waiver of repayment may be made in the case of permanent disability or death.

Work Requirements

Students must make a good faith effort to secure employment in a public CWS agency in California upon graduation. Schools will assist students by providing information about job openings and application procedures. Students who are employees of a county or state CWS agency must return to that agency and render two years of continuous and satisfactory full time employment (at a level appropriate to a new MSW) for the full stipend support that was received. If a position meeting these requirements is not available in the agency to which service is owed, the graduate must apply for and accept an equivalent or higher position in a county CWS agency within a 75-mile radius of her/his home, or in California Department of Social Services, Child Welfare Division. **If no qualifying position is available within 6 months of graduation, graduates will be required to apply for and accept a position with any county CWS in the state of California.** If no such position is available, graduates may request permission to accept a position in a related county program or nonprofit agency serving IV-E eligible child welfare clients, or a CDSS agency serving children and families. American Indian students with tribal rights may complete the work requirement in the following alternative settings:

- A reservation or rancheria providing CWS in California
- An Urban Indian agency in California serving IV-E eligible children and families
- A reservation providing CWS in another state

Work Interruption

A graduate who terminates qualifying employment before the work requirement is completed must repay the stipend. The graduate may request postponement of repayment due to personal hardship. Such a request must be approved by the school and by CalSWEC and may be extended for one additional year. At the end of the postponement period, the graduate must return and complete her/his work requirement or repay the stipend. A waiver of repayment may be made in the case of permanent disability or death. If the graduate is laid-off because of county budget cuts and cannot secure employment in a public CWS agency within the State of California, repayment may be waived.

Repayment Requirements

Students are responsible for repaying the stipend, interest and collection costs, under the following circumstances:

- Failure to complete all MSW requirements within the normative 3-year period (unless a hardship extension is granted)
- Failure to accept appropriate employment
- Failure to qualify for employment as a result of failing an interview, medical or psychological exam, or criminal clearance
- Felony or misdemeanor conviction which disqualifies applicant for county employment, or any conviction involving harm to children
- Voluntary termination of employment before completion of the work requirement (unless a hardship extension is granted)
- Termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor work or improper conduct
- Violation of the NASW Code of Ethics

The University will determine interest rates, collection costs and repayment schedules. Full repayment must be made within five years.

If you would like further information about the Title IV-E Program visit our website at www.sjsu.edu/title4e.