



SACRAMENTO STATE

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF SOCIAL WORK

TITLE IV-E

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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Q: How did the financial aid program develop for Master of Social Work (MSW) students specializing in public child welfare?

A: In 1990, the deans and directors of California's then-10 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 funding from the Ford Foundation, collaborated to create the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC). CalSWEC goal was 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 aid for students and graduates for careers in public child welfare. This consortium has since grown to include 21 California schools of social work.

Q: What is the funding source for the MSW Public Child Welfare Stipend Program?

A: Financial support for these MSW 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.

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.

Q: How much support is provided?

- A: The Title IV-E stipends provide two years of support for full-time students who complete the MSW. Since fall 2000, the stipend amount has been \$18,500 per year (an increase from \$15,000) for both new and continuing students.
- A: 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 other course related costs, and reimbursement for travel to and from class and other program related events.

Q: How many stipends are available?

A: Each of the current 21 graduate schools of social work with a Title IV-E MSW program may award 20 stipends per class of full-time students. Participating schools that have a part-time program may award up to 15 slots of student support per class of part-time students, to a maximum of 30 students.

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

A: Students must be accepted full time student in the MSW program. 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: How do part-time students qualify for financial aid in the Title IV-E MSW program?

A: Students must be accepted part-time student in MSW program. Admittance to part-time study 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 his or her 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: What academic requirements must students fulfill to receive the financial support?

A: Students must complete the entire MSW child welfare program at their school, including the equivalent of two years of fieldwork. One year of fieldwork must be in a county child welfare agency serving Title IV-E children and families. An additional year can be completed in a related county or non-profit program serving child welfare (Title IV-E) clients, i.e., children in or at risk of out-of-home placement.

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

A: Upon graduation, full-time students must work in a county child welfare services agency or California Department of Social Services (CDSS) child welfare division for a period of two years. A student who is currently employed in a county or the state Department of Social Services must return to that agency and render one year of continuous and satisfactory full-time employment for each year of stipend award at a level appropriate to a new MSW 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 an equivalent or higher position in a county child welfare service within a 75-mile radius of the student's residence. If this is not available, the student must search, apply for, and accept an MSW equivalent or higher position in any California county child welfare services agency or the California Department of Social Services.