CalSWEC Mental Health Stipend Program Facts Sheet

Overview

This program is funded by the California Office of Statewide Health, Planning and Development (OSHPD) as a collaborative between California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) - which is housed at UC Berkeley - and several graduate schools of social work, including USC. This program is designed to prepare social workers for careers in public mental health settings that are recovery based. The award of this stipend is based upon the State’s release of funds to CalSWEC.

There are four main target groups in this initiative:

1. Adults with serious mental illnesses
2. Older adults with mental illnesses
3. Children with serious emotional problems and their families
4. Transitional age youth (16-25), at high risk for mental illness and substance abuse.

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify and remain eligible for this mental health stipend, recipients must do the following.

1. Be entering the second year of study, with a graduation date of that following May
2. Be enrolled in the “on-the-ground” MSW program.
   a. Eligibility for VAC students will be assessed on a case-by-case basis due to strict contract requirements and attendance in-person at specialized academic courses and field practicum expectations, all in the Los Angeles area.
3. Maintain good academic standing in the MSW program with 3.0 or better GPA and satisfactory performance in field placement.
4. Pass specific elective courses.
5. Attend an orientation meeting in August before classes start, on or near the University Park Campus (UPC).
6. Participate in a specialized, bi-weekly stipend seminar on Tuesdays from 11:15 am-12:45 pm throughout the academic year at the UPC. Stipend students must actively participate in at least 6 of 7 seminar sessions per semester.
   a. Date and time of this stipend seminar is subject to change.
7. Attend a five-day trauma-informed training during August before classes start, on or near the UPC.
8. Meet the requirements listed below for their specific stipend.

CalSWEC stipend recipients must also do the following:

1. Be from either the Department of Adults and Healthy Aging or the Department of Children, Youth and Families.
2. Complete a field placement with DMH or an agency contracted with DMH.
   a. Please note that placements must be in out-patient settings, NO locked/non-voluntary in-patient facilities, including state hospitals and detention centers, are acceptable placements for this stipend.
3. **Enroll in elective course requirements as follows for AHA students:**
   a. Complete 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults and complete a second elective from this group:
      i. 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults
      ii. 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
      iii. 653 Social Work Practice with Older Adults

4. **Enroll in elective course requirements as follows for CYF students:**
   a. Complete 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbance and complete a second elective from this group:
      i. 602 Contemporary Family Therapy and Social Work Practice
      ii. 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
      iii. 620 Social Work Practice with Transition Age Youth

**Payback Commitment**

In exchange for the CalSWEC Mental Health stipend, students agree to work upon graduation, for at least one calendar year, in a payback-eligible position at DMH within the state of California, or at one of its contracted agencies. Students must agree to participate in a monitoring system during the payback period. All CalSWEC stipend recipients are placed in a separate pool in the LA County DMH hiring system, which is a hiring advantage.

**Application Process**

Applications for this stipend of $18,500 can be accessed through the Social Work website, from the Financial Aid page by clicking on Stipends ([http://sowkweb.usc.edu/admissions/master-of-social-work/financial-aid/stipends](http://sowkweb.usc.edu/admissions/master-of-social-work/financial-aid/stipends)). Written applications are due on **March 25, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.**, and are evaluated and scored. The highest scoring applicants will be contacted for an interview. Interviews will be held during the month of **April**. Awards will be made on the basis of the quality of the application and the interview. You may apply to both the CalSWEC and the Los Angeles County DMH Stipends by checking both boxes on the application, however, you can only receive one. **Applicants must complete packet in full.**

Awards are always contingent upon the availability of fund from the State to this program.

**Please note that if you receive this award, it may impact your financial aid package.** A representative from the School of Social Work Financial Aid Office will meet with all awardees during the orientation to discuss any questions that you may have related to the stipend.

**Questions:** Please contact Professor Rosemary Alamo at **ralamo@usc.edu**.