Overview

This program is funded by the California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development as a collaborative between the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) — which is housed at the University of California, 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 stipend award amount 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 Integrated Behavioral Health stipend, recipients must do the following:

1. Be entering their second year of study, with a graduation date for that following May;
2. Be enrolled in the “on-the-ground” Master of Social Work program;
   a. Eligibility for Virtual Academic Center students will be assessed on a case-by-case basis due to strict contract requirements, as well as in-person attendance requirements at specialized academic courses and field practicum expectations, all in the Los Angeles area
3. Maintain good academic standing in the MSW program with at least a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory performance in field placement;
4. Pass specific elective courses;
5. Attend an orientation meeting in August before classes start at or near the University Park Campus (UPC);
6. Participate in a specialized, biweekly stipend seminar on Tuesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. throughout the academic year at UPC. Stipend students must actively participate in at least six of seven seminar sessions per semester;
   a. Dates and times of these stipend seminars are subject to change
7. Attend a trauma-informed training during August before classes start at or near UPC; and
8. Meet the requirements listed below for their specific stipend

CalSWEC IBH 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 the Department of Mental Health (DMH) or an agency contracted with DMH
   a. Please note that placements must be in outpatient settings; NO locked/nonvoluntary inpatient facilities, including state hospitals and detention centers, are acceptable placements for this stipend
3. Enroll in elective course requirements as follows for Adults and Healthy Aging 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 with Older Adults

4. Enroll in elective course requirements as follows for Children, Youth and Families students:
   a. Complete 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents and complete a second elective from this group:
      i. 602 Advanced Theories and Clinical Interventions with Families
      ii. 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
      iii. 620 Social Work Practice with Transitional Youth

Payback Commitment

In exchange for the CalSWEC IBH stipend, students agree to work for at least one calendar year upon graduation 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 IBH stipend recipients are placed in a separate pool in the Los Angeles County DMH hiring system, which is a hiring advantage.

Counties of Need

There is a high need to recruit students who can complete internships and/or employment payback requirements in the following counties:

- (Bay Area) Marin, Napa, San Benito, San Mateo, Solano, Sonoma;
- (Central) Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin, Sutter, Tuolumne, Tulare, Yolo, Yuba;
- (Southern) Imperial, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura; and
- (Superior) Colusa, Del Norte, Glenn, Lake, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Nevada, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity

Application Process

Applications for this $18,500 stipend can be accessed through the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work website. From the homepage, go to Financial Aid and then click on Stipends (https://sowkweb.usc.edu/admissions/master-of-social-work/stipends). Written applications are due on March 10, 2017, 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 IBH and the LAC DMH stipends by checking both boxes on the application; however, you can only receive one. Applicants must complete the packet in full.

Awards are always contingent upon the availability of funds from the state to this program.

Please note that if you receive this award, it will impact your financial aid package. A representative from the 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 Holly Priebe-Sotelo at hsotelo@usc.edu