The USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work offers two stipend opportunities: one funded by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH) and another by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC). Each program’s requirements are slightly different. It’s important to understand these differences to determine which program to apply for. If a student meets the requirements, a student may choose to apply to both programs; however, a student can only be selected for one. The requirements for each stipend program are listed on the next page.

For more information, please visit the Stipends webpage at [https://sowkweb.usc.edu/admissions/master-of-social-work/stipends](https://sowkweb.usc.edu/admissions/master-of-social-work/stipends) and/or contact Holly Priebe-Sotelo at hsotelo@usc.edu.

- Check this box [ ] to confirm you read and understand the attached **Mental Health Stipends Summary of Obligations**
- Indicate which program(s) you are applying for (check one or both): CalSWEC IBH [ ] DMH [ ]

All applicants must complete this packet in full.

**Submission Deadline: March 10, 2017, by 5:00 p.m.**

Email to mhstipends@usc.edu or mail a hard copy to:

**CalSWEC Integrated Behavioral Health Project Coordinator**  
USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work  
850 W. Washington Blvd., 1st Floor  
Los Angeles, CA 90015-3359

Name: ___________________________________ Student ID #: ___________________________ Cellphone: __________________________

Email: ___________________________________ Expected graduation month/year __________________________

Campus: [ ] UPC [ ] VAC*  
*VAC students: read qualifications on next page carefully  
Department: [ ] AHA [ ] CYF [ ] COBI*  
*COBI students may only apply for the DMH program

Area(s) of interest:

- [ ] Adults with mental illness  
- [ ] Older adults with mental illness  
- [ ] Homeless population  
- [ ] Adolescents at risk for mental illness  
- [ ] Seriously emotionally disturbed children

Have you completed or are you currently enrolled in the 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery course? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Criminal background:** If you have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in the last three years and you were over the age of 18 when convicted, please attach a separate sheet with date(s), charges, location(s) and penalties. You do not need to include offenses that occurred prior to your 18th birthday, traffic violations with fines of $500.00 or less (unless the traffic violation resulted in a felony or misdemeanor conviction) or expunged offenses.

- Not applicable [ ] Description attached [ ]

Do you have an automobile for placement-related travel? [ ] Yes [ ] No

**Driver’s license and insurance**

Driver’s license number: ___________________________ State issued: _____ Exp. date: ______

Automobile insurance company: ___________________________

Policy number: ______________________________________

Expiration date: ______________________________________
Mental Health/Integrated Behavioral Health Stipends Summary of Obligations

Both Mental Health and Integrated Behavioral Health (IBH) programs provide an $18,500 stipend for second-year Master of Social Work students planning careers in the public mental health system.

The CalSWEC IBH stipend program is a collaborative effort between California’s Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, CalSWEC, which is housed at the University of California, Berkeley, and several graduate schools of social work, including USC. Students must be willing to work with persons with mental illnesses in designated high-need/high-priority areas in California. Recipients agree that within 180 days of conferral of the MSW degree, they will provide evidence — through the submission of documents to be provided by CalSWEC — of employment at a county-operated mental/behavioral health agency or a community-based organization under contract to a county mental health/behavioral health agency to provide mental/behavioral health services in California, in a position appropriate to a new MSW. Recipients who receive the full $18,500 award must agree to work for at least 12 months in a full-time capacity in a qualifying public mental health/behavioral health agency.

The LAC DMH stipend program is offered to encourage the development of social workers in public mental health settings that incorporate evidence-based interventions within recovery frameworks. Stipend recipients will need to be employed full time for one year in a public mental health agency, either directly operated by or contracted with LAC DMH, and this agency must be in one of the identified areas. These areas include Service Area (SA) 1 — Palmdale/Lancaster; SA 4 — downtown Los Angeles; SA 6 — Compton/Lynwood; and SA 7 — East Los Angeles. Recipients must secure employment within six months of graduation and must be willing to work at least one year in a full-time capacity with persons with mental illnesses in designated high-need/high-priority areas.

Stipend funds distribution timing depends on the funder, DMH or CalSWEC, not USC! The Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work Financial Aid Office works with students to resolve issues, such as late fees assessed, related to this timing. Stipend students must take a proactive role to plan for the timing of the funding, tracking their university bill and engaging the Financial Aid Office. Please note that if you receive this award and you receive financial aid, you must notify the Financial Aid Office. This will impact your financial aid package.

Qualifications and Requirements

To qualify and remain eligible for either mental health stipend, recipients must do the following:

1. Be enrolled in the “on-the-ground” MSW 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
2. Maintain good academic standing in the MSW program with at least a 3.0 GPA and satisfactory performance in field placement;
3. Pass specific elective courses;
4. Attend an orientation meeting in August before classes start at or near the University Park Campus (UPC);
5. 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
6. Attend a trauma-informed training during August before classes start at or near UPC; and
7. 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 (AHA) or the Department of Children, Youth and Families (CYF);
2. Complete a field placement with DMH or an agency contracted with DMH; and
3. Enroll in elective course requirements as follows:
a. AHA students: 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
b. CYF students: 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
c. COBI students:
   i. Completing a third elective is highly encouraged for this group:
      1. 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults
      2. 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults
      3. 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents

DMH stipend recipients must also do the following:

1. Be an active student in good standing from any of the three MSW departments (AHA, CYF or COBI);
2. Complete a field placement at an LAC DMH-operated or county-contracted mental health agency;
3. Enroll in elective course requirements; and
   a. AHA students: 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
   b. CYF students: 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
   c. COBI students: complete 612 Assessment and Diagnosis of Mental Disorder and 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery
      i. Completing a third elective is highly encouraged for this group:
         1. 616 Clinical Practice with Older Adults
         2. 618 Systems of Recovery from Mental Illness in Adults
         3. 677 Mental Health Practice with Children and Adolescents

4. Understand that upon graduation, you are required to work in a payback-eligible position in a geographical or programmatic area designated by LAC DMH to have high need and/or hard to fill (identified above)

Students who take the 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders and Recovery elective in the second semester of their first year will have a stronger application.

Note: CYF students may earn a Pupil Personnel Services Credential as long as they also meet the requirements of the stipend program

Payback Commitment

In exchange for the CalSWEC IBH stipend, students agree to secure eligible full-time employment within 180 days of graduation within the state of California or at one of its contracted agencies.

In exchange for the LAC DMH stipend, students agree to work, six months after graduation for at least one calendar year, in a payback-eligible position in a directly operated or county-contracted mental health agency in a geographical or programmatic area in LAC designated by DMH to have high need and/or hard to fill.
Application Instructions

- **Complete all pages** of the application packet

- **Attach your resume**, including all mental-health related work and volunteer experience

- **Attach typed responses** to the following four questions. Include your name and the question number at the top of each page. Responses are neither “right” nor “wrong” but rather a means of assessing the fit between you and mental health. Your response for each question should be half to one page in length (single or double spaced). Only the first page per question will be read and scored

1. Describe your understanding of what work in public mental health settings entails. In what ways have your prior experiences prepared you for work in public mental health? What interests you about public mental health that leads you to focus your education and career in this area?

2. Discuss stigma and its impact on consumers and providers of mental health services. As a social worker in public mental health, what are some strategies you might employ in dealing with stigma?

3. What is your understanding of recovery- and strength-based practices as they relate to work with people with mental illness? Identify and briefly discuss one evidence-based intervention that is useful in work with people with mental illness. Address what the intervention is and with what population it has been evaluated as helpful; include one strength/advantage and one weakness/disadvantage in using this intervention.

4. Briefly discuss the importance of advocacy in the provision of mental health services and the impact of one legislative policy on these services.
Personal Information

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Previous name(s) used (if any): ________________________________

Gender:  Female ☐  Male ☐  Transgender ☐  Other ☐

Ethnicity:  American Indian/Alaskan Native ☐  Black/African-American/African descent ☐
Caucasian/European descent ☐  East Asian ☐  Hispanic/Latino ☐  Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander ☐
Middle Eastern/Arab ☐  South Asian ☐  Multiracial ☐ (please specify) ________________________________

Marital status:  Single ☐  Married ☐  Separated ☐  Divorced ☐  Domestic partner ☐  Widowed ☐

Annual household income: ________________________________

Are you a veteran?  Yes ☐  No ☐  Decline to state ☐

Do you self-identify as any of the following?  LGBTQ ☐  Former foster youth ☐
Visibly or invisibly disabled ☐  Other ☐ ________________________________  Decline to state ☐

Do you have any personal experience as a consumer of behavioral health services?  Yes ☐  No ☐  Decline to state ☐

Do you have any personal experience as the family member or caregiver of a consumer of behavioral health services?  Yes ☐  No ☐  Decline to state ☐
**Citizenship and Residence History** (all information will be kept strictly confidential)

Country of birth: ____________________________

Country of citizenship: ____________________________

If a naturalized U.S. citizen, date of naturalization: _____ / ___ / ______

If not a U.S. citizen, expiration date of green card: _____ / ___ / ______ or DACA: ___ / ___ / _____

Current CA county of residence: ____________________________

CA county of residence prior to beginning MSW degree: ____________________________

**Education**

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GPA in MSW program as of the end of last term: ____________________________

Enrollment status in MSW program in stipend year:  
☐ Full-time  ☐ Part-time

Expected date of graduation from MSW program: _____ / ___ / _____

**Language Skills**

What is your first language? ____________________________

What languages do you speak, read or write other than English?

Language 1: ____________________________

Verbal proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

Reading proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

Writing proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

Language 2:

Verbal proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

Reading proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

Writing proficiency:  Very little ☐  Moderate ☐  Fluent ☐

**Employment and Volunteer Experience**

Are you currently employed in mental health, social services or a related area?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

Agency:

Department/Unit:

Job title:

Employment dates: From: _____ / _____ / _______  To: _____ / _____ / _______
Is your current employment in a county or county-contracted mental health program? Yes ☐ No ☐

If YES, please provide the following information:

☐ I have attached a copy of Statement of Release for Academic Time
☐ I am currently seeking an educational leave from: _____ / _____ / _______ to: _____ / _____ / _______

Have you previously been employed in mental health, social services or a related area? Yes ☐ No ☐

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Have you previously volunteered in mental health, social services or a related area? Yes ☐ No ☐

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<td>Volunteer dates: From: _____ / _____ / _______</td>
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Please list any additional employment/volunteer experiences on a separate sheet of paper.

How many years of experience do you have in the following work settings?
County behavioral health agencies: _____ years
County-contracted behavioral health agencies: _____ years
Other health/human service agencies: _____ years

Please provide contact information for two people who will know how to reach you after graduation:

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I certify that all of the information provided here is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

__________________________________  __________________________
Signature                                  Date