This stipend program is only available for students in the last two semesters when completing 698a/b and 699a/b – during traditional academic year of August through May - at their corresponding campus: University Park Campus (UPC), Orange County Academic Center (OCAC) or San Diego Academic Center (SDAC). Students apply in the spring semester when they are taking 588 and 589b. VAC students might be eligible to apply but would need to complete all “on-the-ground” stipend requirements in-person and complete MSW program in May.

BACKGROUND

This stipend program is funded by a federal grant that contributes to the Now is the Time Initiative to Reduce Gun Violence developed by President Obama and the White House after the Newtown tragedy. The perpetrator of the Newtown Massacre, like many other recent perpetrators of mass public shootings, was a transition age youth (TAY) who lacked access to mental health services. This stipend program focuses on educating and training MSW students in violence awareness and prevention, reducing the effects of trauma and depression, reducing the risk factors for substance abuse and suicide, and increasing the involvement of transition-age youths and their families in the prevention and treatment of behavioral health disorders.

The stipend amount is $10,000. The goal of this stipend project is to prepare students to embark in a career that expands the workforce of those who serve the needs of transition-age persons 16 to 25 years old who are at risk for mental illness, substance abuse, violence, suicide and who are among the least likely to seek and receive sustained range of behavioral health services and other forms of much needed help.

ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

Students participating in this stipend program during the academic year of 2016-2017 must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Must be in second year of MSW program and be from the Department of Children, Youth, and Families or the Department of Adults and Healthy Aging.
2. Must be in a specific field placement – which primarily serves children, adolescents, and TAY – that has been identified to be part this project.
3. Must remain in qualified field placement for a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of twelve (12) months preceding graduation.
   a. Please see page two (2) for a list of targeted agencies eligible for stipend.
4. Must maintain good standing in the program, meaning 3.0 or better GPA and satisfactory performance in field placement.
5. Must attend an orientation meeting in early August at own campus (SDAC, OCAC or UPC).
6. Must attend 30-hour trauma informed training in early to mid-August before classes start.
7. Must attend and participate in a bi-weekly TAY field seminar (90 minutes) at own campus, which will meet during universal break from 11:15 am to 12:45 pm.
   a. Attend and participate in at least 12 of 14 bi-weekly TAY field seminars.
8. Must attend and participate in designated brown bag training sessions.
   a. Attend and participate in at least one (1) brown bag training session per semester.
9. Must complete coursework and trainings. In addition to core curriculum from own department, students will:
   a. Take SOWK 620 Social Work Practice with Transition Age Youth.
   b. Take SOWK 617 Substance Related and Behavioral Addictive Disorders OR SOWK 677 Mental Health Practice with Seriously Emotionally Disturbed Children and Youth.
10. Must sign Commitment Form confirming understanding of the requirements of this stipend program and stating intentions to work with the target population after graduation from MSW program.

NUMBER OF STIPENDS AND TARGETED FIELD PLACEMENTS

There are 30 stipends available throughout UPC, OCAC, and SDAC. The following is a list of agencies targeted to offer the field placements eligible for the Tri-County stipends:

SDAC (10 stipends)
- 3-4 at San Diego Youth Services
- 3-4 at YMCA
- 3-4 at San Diego Center for Children

OCAC (10 stipends)
- 6-8 at Kaiser Permanente of Orange County
- 1 at Community Family Guidance Center – shared with UPC
- 1-4 Anaheim Union High School District

UPC (10 stipends)
- 3-4 at Kaiser Permanente, Norwalk
- 1-3 at Children’s Hospital
- 2-3 at Pacific Clinics
- 1-2 at Covenant House, California
- 1 at Community Family Guidance Center – shared with OCAC

APPLICATION PROCESS

There is no application form. Students competing for the Tri-County stipends will be selected by participating agencies that will offer specific field placements to work with the TAY population. Please check with your department’s second year field placement faculty for updated list of targeted field placements.

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.

USC TRI-COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING CONSORTIUM CONTACTS

SDAC  Ruth Supranovich, Clinical Associate Professor of Field Education and SDAC Director  supranov@usc.edu
OCAC  Rosemary Alamo, Clinical Associate Professor of Field Education  ralamo@usc.edu
UPC  Omar López, Clinical Associate Professor and Assistant Director of Field Education, Principal Investigator  omarl@usc.edu