The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), the nation’s largest state coalition of social work educators and practitioners, was established to improve the education and training of social workers for publicly supported social services.

As a member of CalSWEC, the USC School of Social Work offers financial support to qualified Master of Social Work (MSW) students in the full-time program who commit to a public child welfare career upon graduation.

**Stipend Amount**

The CalSWEC stipend provides full-time MSW students $18,500 per year for two years.

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CalSWEC is the nation’s largest state coalition of social work educators and practitioners, representing a consortium of the state’s 22 accredited social work graduate schools, 58 county departments of social services and mental health, the California Department of Social Services, and the California Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.
Frequently Asked Questions

How do I qualify?
You must be enrolled full-time in the MSW program at the USC School of Social Work and choose the Department of Children, Youth and Families and Public Child Welfare option. You must also be prepared to fulfill a work commitment upon graduation. For every year of support, you agree to work a year within a California county child welfare agency.

What if I am a part-time student?
USC does not offer a CalSWEC option for part-time students.

What is my work commitment after graduation?
After graduation, you will work in a county child welfare service agency within California one year for each year of stipend support received.

How are students selected to receive the stipend?
Students must apply to the USC School of Social Work and meet admissions requirements. Admitted students can then apply for a CalSWEC stipend by completing an application form with questions designed to determine their interest and level of commitment to a career in public child welfare. Applicants with the most potential for a successful career in public child welfare services are asked to attend an in-person interview with CalSWEC administration and/or faculty. A CalSWEC Awards Committee reviews and confirms the preliminary selections. We attempt to recruit students who reflect the diverse client populations served by child welfare agencies in California.

When is the application deadline?
Early June

When will I be notified if I have been awarded a stipend?
July

Are there any stipulations?
You must make a good faith effort to secure employment in a public child welfare agency in California upon graduation. The school will assist you by providing information about job openings. If you are unable to successfully complete any of the program requirements, you will be required to repay the stipend, unless a hardship extension is granted.

What is field education and where are the placements?
Field education is an integral part of the MSW curriculum, providing students practice opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom. At USC, students are required to complete two years, or 1,000 hours, of field education in carefully selected field placements. These agencies emphasize direct clinical service to children and families at risk.

Examples of CalSWEC field placements:
- Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services
- County of Orange Children Services
- Los Angeles Child Guidance Center
- Foster Family Agencies
- Kaiser Permanente Watts Counseling and Learning Center
- Plaza Community Center
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- El Centro de Pueblo