

THE CalSWEC TITLE IV-E MSW PROGRAM

What is the CalSWEC Title IV-E MSW Program?

The Title IV-E MSW Program is part of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Training Program administered by the California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC) (<https://calswec.berkeley.edu>) for California State University (CSU) and University of California campuses. It was developed to promote the professionalization of social work practice by offering financial stipends and support to BASW and MSW students who commit to a career in public or Tribal child welfare.

The full-time Title IV-E MSW Program provides up to two years of support in the amount of \$18,500 per year for new and continuing students who complete the program. Part-time students, who must be current employees of a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency, receive support to cover a capped amount toward the actual costs of tuition and fees, required books, and travel expenses to campus or to field placement for up to three years.

Financial support for MSW students is provided through federal Title IV-E training funds managed by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and administered through the California Department of Social Services (CDSS).

Which schools of social work participate in the Title IV-E MSW Program?

Twenty of California's accredited schools of social work and social welfare participate in the program. To see the most current list of schools, go to <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program/prospective-students>.

How many stipends are available?

Each of the 20 participating social work graduate schools offers stipends and support based on agency need.

What is the application process for full-time students?

Students must be accepted into a full-time program at one of the graduate schools of social work participating in the Title IV-E MSW Program. Current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services and probation employees are given admission preference, but they must be on educational leave (i.e., not receiving pay from the agency during the academic year) to participate in the full-time program. The employees may work during break periods and summers, and may perform fieldwork in their agency subject to school policies.

Stipend recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, be a resident of California, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill the program's employment obligation upon graduation.

What is the application process for part-time students?

Students must be accepted into a part-time program at one of the graduate schools of social work participating in the Title IV-E MSW Program. Admittance to part-time study is limited to current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees. Applicants must have a letter of support from their agency director. Support recipients must agree to participate in the complete child welfare specialization as defined by the school, have a valid driver's license and secure use of a car as required for fieldwork, be a resident of California, and undergo pre-screening for county employment. They must also fulfill the program's employment obligation upon graduation.

How are students selected for the Title IV-E MSW Program?

Each participating school has an awards committee, consisting of both faculty/administration and agency representatives from public child welfare services, that makes award decisions. Priority is given to current public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation employees and to applicants who reflect the diverse populations currently served by child welfare agencies in California.

What are the academic requirements for the Title IV-E MSW Program?

Students must complete the entire MSW degree and CalSWEC Title IV-E child welfare program at their school, including the equivalent of two years of fieldwork. One year of fieldwork must be in a public (Tribal, county, or state) child welfare or juvenile probation agency serving Title IV-E children and families. An additional year may be completed in a related public or non-profit program serving child welfare (Title IV-E) clients, i.e., children in or at risk of out-of-home placement.

What is the student's employment obligation after graduation?

All graduates must work in a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families for a period of time commensurate with the period of support received.

A part-time student who is employed in a public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency must return to that agency and render continuous and satisfactory full-time employment at a level appropriate to a new MSW in public child welfare for a period of time commensurate with the period support is received. If a position meeting these requirements is not available in the agency to which service is owed, the student must apply for and accept an equivalent or higher position in any public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in California in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families within one year of graduation.

A student who is not a current employee must search for, apply for, and obtain full-time employment in any public (Tribal, county, or state) social services or probation agency in the division, unit, or branch serving Title IV-E children and families at a level appropriate to a new MSW in public child welfare within one year of graduation.

What are the options for working with Native American children and families to satisfy the employment obligation?

Any graduate may complete their employment obligation in a reservation or rancheria providing child welfare services in California, or an urban Indian agency in California serving Title IV-E-eligible children and families. Native American/American Indian graduates may complete their employment obligation in a Tribe or reservation providing child welfare services in another state.

What role do participating public agencies have in the Title IV-E MSW Program?

Participating agencies develop educational leave policies, publicize the program, agree to re-employ trainees as long as jobs are available, provide quality fieldwork with MSW supervision in accordance with school requirements, seek to schedule hiring procedures to fit graduate employment time restrictions, and seek to give hiring preference to graduates. A number of agency directors serve on the CalSWEC Advisory Board.

How can persons interested in the Title IV-E MSW Program obtain more information about applying to a participating school?

They should contact the school they want to attend directly. The most current list of schools is available here: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program/prospective-students>.

For more information about the Title IV-E MSW Program:

Contact the Title IV-E Program at your graduate school of interest. For a list of participating schools: <https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program/prospective-students>

For general information about the program:

<https://calswec.berkeley.edu/programs-and-services/calswec-title-iv-e-program>

Contact CalSWEC at 510.642.9272.