



School of Social Work (SSW) Stipend Program Application Process

(AY 2026-2027)

Please review this document which outlines the stipend programs offered in the School of Social Work. If you have any questions, please contact the Program Coordinator listed for the stipend you are interested in.

- i. Applicants must be admitted to the SSW MSW Program before they apply.
- ii. Applicants can apply to **two** Stipend Categories.
 - For example, an applicant may apply to both Behavioral Health stipends and both Child Welfare stipends.
- iii. Each stipend program has its own awardee selection policy and specific application requirements.
- iv. If an applicant applies to multiple stipends, they will be asked their preference during the interview. Final decisions will be made by the School of Social Work.
- v. Applications are included in your acceptance packet. Please review all attachments in your acceptance email.

Please note: DMH and GSWEC are not available until your final year of the program.

STIPEND PROGRAM: LA DCFS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**Contact: Lisa Valenzuela, Project Coordinator****Email: lvalen20@calstatela.edu**

About the stipend: The DCFS Internship is a 2-year internship program for students interested in public child welfare. MSW students receive a stipend in the amount of \$26,000 per year. Students are selected in their first year of practicum and will be placed at an agency that works with the DCFS population or those at risk. In the second year, students will be placed with DCFS. The DCFS office will be selected by DCFS, however it may be at the Glendale, Belvedere, Corporate, Monterey Park, or San Gabriel Valley office. If selected for the DCFS stipend students are required to attend mandatory specialized seminars that are held throughout the school year in both 1st yr. and 2nd yr. of practicum. Upon graduation, students are required to work at L.A. County DCFS for two years (or 1 year for ASP recipients). Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA, successfully pass internship both years and take the graduate level Public Child Welfare elective.

Amount of Stipend: \$26,000 per year (for 2 years) (1 year for ASP)**Number of stipends available:** 16 total(typically 8 for those in 1st year internship and 8 for those in 2nd year internship including ASP)

Employment Obligation: Recipients agree to work for LA County DCFS after graduation for the number of years the stipend is received. For 2 yr and 3 yr program recipients, the obligation is for 2 years. For ASP recipients, the obligation is for 1 year.

How to apply

2 Year Program	The application is in the acceptance packet. Students will apply and interview with the stipend coordinator prior to starting in their first year of grad school. Selected students will be informed in June/July. Students who accept will interview with DCFS prior to starting any internship. DCFS has the final say in the selection of stipend recipients.
3 Year Program	Students will apply in the Spring of their first year. Information will be provided at a 1st year placement orientation. Applications are accessible after the orientation. Students are interviewed in April/May and will be informed by the end of May. Students will also interview with DCFS prior to starting any internship. DCFS has the final say in the selection of stipend recipients.
ASP	The application is in the acceptance packet. Students will interview with the stipend coordinator in May. Selected students will also interview with DCFS. DCFS has the final say in the selection of recipients.

***Please note:** You must have the right to work in the U.S. for internship and for employment with LA County DCFS.

**STIPEND PROGRAM: California Title IV-E Education Program
(formerly CalSWEC)**

**Contact: Carol Mroz, Program Coordinator
Email: cmroz@calstatela.edu**

About the stipend: The CA Title IV-E Education Program offers a 2-year stipend, education, and specialized training to students interested in a career in public child welfare. MSW students receive a stipend in the amount of \$25,000 per year. For their 1st year of internship, selected students will be placed at a community community-based organization that serves Title IV-E eligible children and families. During their second year of internship, students are placed with the Los Angeles County Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS), where they have the opportunity to practice and develop skills and tasks consistent with those of Children's Social Workers in public child welfare. The program also offers specialized seminars that are held each semester and are required.

Amount of stipend: \$25,000 per year (for 2 years)

Number of stipends: 15-20

Employment Obligation: After graduation, students have a 2-year employment obligation which can be fulfilled at LA County DCFS or any of the 58 county public child welfare agencies within the state of California, California Department of Social Services (CDSS) programs or Tribal/Urban Indian agencies providing child welfare services. ASP and BASW graduates have a 1-year commitment.

How to apply

2 Year Program	An application will be included in the acceptance packet. Students who apply will interview with a university panel before beginning their first year of the MSW program and are notified of the outcome in June. Before beginning an internship at DCFS, students must also interview and be accepted by a DCFS panel.
3 Year Program	Students apply in the Spring of their first year. Information will be provided at a 1st year placement orientation, and applications are available after the orientation. Students are interviewed by a panel in April/May and will be notified of the outcome by the end of May. Before beginning an internship at DCFS, students must also interview and be accepted by a DCFS panel.
3 Year Program (County PCW Employees Only)	An application will be included in the acceptance packet. County PCW employees who apply will interview with a university panel before the beginning of their first year in the MSW program and will be notified of the outcome in late June. County Public Child Welfare (PCW) Employees in the 3-year program, such as LA County DCFS, receive reimbursement for tuition, fees, books, educational supplies and travel, up to \$19,141 per year for 3 years. First year internships are at a community community-based organization that serves Title IV-E eligible children and families. Final year internships are at DCFS where CSWs have a macro placement; HSAs and others have a clinical placement.
ASP	An application will be included in the acceptance packet. Students will interview with CA Title IV-E and with DCFS.
BASW	Based on availability of funds, stipends of \$20,270 may be available for students in the BASW program who are placed at LA County DCFS. An information meeting will be held for interested students during the summer before the final year in the BASW program.

**STIPEND PROGRAM: Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program
(PBH)**

Contact: James Simon
Email: jsimon7@calstatela.edu

About the stipend: The Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program is part of a statewide behavioral health workforce development initiative to address California's pressing public behavioral health workforce development needs. Funded by the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) and administered by San Jose State University (SJSU), this program expands on the work of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) MSW Training Program. Its central goal is to increase the employment and retention of MSWs in California's publicly-funded behavioral health programs and services by providing selected MSW students with specialized training and stipend support. MSW students receive a stipend of \$25,000 and must complete additional PBH training requirement during their studies. In addition, they must be placed in an agency that delivers publicly funded behavioral health care services, e.g., community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, etc. Upon graduation, students must fulfill a one-year work commitment though the goal is for students to commit to a career in public behavioral health.

Amount of stipend: \$25,000

Number of stipends available: 14 (split between ASP, 2-year, and 3-year students)

Employment Obligation: 1 year per year of stipend received.

For example, if you receive the stipend for two years, then you owe two years of service.

How to apply

2 Year Program	Students can apply any year in which they have a placement providing publicly funded behavioral health care services, e.g., community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, etc.
3 Year Program	Students can apply any year in which they have a placement providing publicly funded behavioral health care services, e.g., community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, etc.
ASP	Students can apply any year in which they have a placement providing publicly funded behavioral health care services, e.g., community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, etc.

STIPEND PROGRAM: MSW HCAI SWECE Behavioral Training Fellowship**Contact: Ga-Young Choi, Ph.D., MSW****Email: gchoi11@calstatela.edu**

About the stipend: The Cal State LA MSW HCAI SWECE* Behavioral Health Training Fellowship is for students interested in and committed to working in the fields of behavioral health (mental health and/or substance use) as clinical social workers, serving children and youth through age up to 25 years old and their caregivers in underserved/unserved communities. In the upcoming academic year (2026), incoming ASP students are eligible to apply. Selected fellows will receive \$15,000 per academic year during their program length in addition to attending behavioral health training sessions.

*HCAI SWECE: Health Care Access and Information Social Work Education Capacity Expansion.

The HCAI Fellowship requirements for the Fellows include the following: 1) Maintain a good academic standing, including practicum (GPA 3.0 or higher and pass Practicum-SW 5950A, SW 5950B, SW 5950C, and SW 5950D); 2) Meet and complete all the stipend requirements including training and related events; 3) Be in a behavioral practicum setting during the entire MSW program; 4) Make and demonstrate a commitment to work in behavioral social work practice settings upon graduating from the Cal State LA MSW program; 5) Complete thesis / project in the areas of behavioral health (i.e., mental health and or substance use); 6) Must take two elective courses directly relating to behavioral health as the required elective course (SW 5802: Empowerment and Recovery in Mental Health and SW 5804: Trauma, Substance Abuse & Violence).

Amount of Stipend: \$15,000 per year

Number of stipends available: 5 for incoming ASP students (Fall of 2026)

Employment Obligation: There is no payback obligation. There is also no obligation to work in a specific behavioral health setting. However, HCAI Fellows are expected to work in underserved communities in the fields of behavioral health for 5 years providing direct services to children and youth age up to 25 years old after graduating from the program. Behavioral health in the SSW HCAI SWECE Fellowship includes mental health and substance use.

How to apply

2 Year Program	Not available
3 Year Program	Not available
ASP	Incoming students are eligible to apply. To apply, students must complete an online application form and upload their resume in a PDF file. Applications will be reviewed, and selected applicants will be invited for interviews. The application information will be available between late February and early March. Application deadline is usually in mid-May.

STIPEND PROGRAM: Aging and Adult Services (AAS) Services
MSW Training Program (Formerly known as APS)

Contact: James Simon
Email: jsimon7@calstatela.edu

About the stipend: AAS MSW Training Program is funded by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and reflects statewide workforce development goals prioritized in California's Master Plan for Aging to:

1. To provide specialized education, training and stipend support for MSW students who are committed to careers providing social work services to aging and vulnerable adults through California's public systems.
2. To better prepare new MSWs to provide effective, evidence-based professional social work services to meet the complex needs of aging and vulnerable adults served by California's public Adult Services departments.
3. To enhance the hiring, retention and career development of MSWs in public Adult Services programs and further professionalize these services in all regions of the state.

MSW students receive a stipend of \$25,000 and must complete additional AAS training requirement during their studies. In addition, they must be placed in an agency that delivers services to older adults during their foundation year and advanced year. Upon graduation, students must fulfill a one-year work commitment though the goal is for students to commit to a career in an eligible agency serving aging and/or vulnerable adults. Eligible placements include:

- Public (county and Tribal) Adult Protective Services, In Home Supportive Services, and Public Guardian/Public Conservator programs
- Public behavioral health programs for aging and vulnerable adults housed in Adult Services and Behavioral Health departments
- Area Agency on Aging programs funded entirely by the California Department of Aging

Amount of stipend: \$25,000

Number of Stipends: 8 (split between ASP, 2-year, and 3-year students)

Employment Obligation: 1 year per year of stipend received. For example, if you receive the stipend for two years, then you owe two years of service.

How to apply

2 Year Program	-Foundation year practicum students (1 st year) must be placed in practicums that involve delivering services for aging and/or vulnerable adults. -Advanced year practicum (2 nd year) may be in an adult protective services agency or in an eligible agency serving aging and/or vulnerable adults.
3 Year Program	-Foundation year practicum students (2 nd year of program) must be placed in practicums that involve delivering services for aging and/or vulnerable adults. -Advanced year practicum (3 rd year of program) may be in an adult protective services agency or in an eligible agency serving aging and/or vulnerable adults.
ASP	Practicum must be in an adult protective services agency or in an eligible agency serving aging and/or vulnerable adults.

STIPEND PROGRAM: L. A. County Dept. of Mental Health (DMH) Stipend**Contact: Hermila Melero****Email: hmelero2@calstatela.edu**

About the stipend: *At this time, we are uncertain if this program will be available. For incoming students (AY 2026-2027) you are not eligible until the Fall of 2027. If it is offered, as of now, students receive \$18,500.* Students awarded a stipend will need to commit to one-year employment post-degree in a clinical capacity at either a directly operated or agency contracted by LAC DMH. If your 1st yr. internship was in a DMH-operated or contracted agency or in a community setting (including schools) that provided public mental health care, you may qualify to apply for the stipend. You also have the option to select qualifying placements for your 2nd year internship that will also qualify you to apply for the DMH stipend. Once the stipend application becomes available, you all will be notified and provided with the link to apply once you become eligible (final year of the program).

Amount of stipend: \$18,500**Number of stipends available:** 60 for ALL participating Social Work Programs throughout Southern California (CSULA is not allocated a specific number of stipends)

Employment Obligation: Recipients agree to work for LA County DMH directly operated or DMH contracted high need agencies for 12 consecutive months (1 calendar year).

How to apply

2 Year Program	The LAC DMH stipend application will become available at the end of the fall semester of your FINAL year of the MSW program. It's an online application administered by Campbellsville University. You will receive an email when the online application becomes available including the application deadline.
3 Year Program	The LAC DMH stipend application will become available at the end of the fall semester of your FINAL year of the MSW program. It's an online application administered by Campbellsville University. You will receive an email when the online application becomes available including the application deadline.
ASP	The LAC DMH stipend application will become available at the end of the fall semester 2026. It's an online application administered by Campbellsville University. You will receive an email when the online application becomes available including the application deadline.

STIPEND PROGRAM: Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium
GSWEC Stipend Program

Contact: Hermila Melero
Email: hmelero2@calstatela.edu

About the stipend: The Geriatric Social Work Education Consortium (GSWEC) is a collaboration among eight graduate schools of social work and fourteen community agencies specializing in services for older adults in the Greater Los Angeles area. GSWEC was established in 1999 to provide aging-focused second year practicum placements and competency-driven geriatric social work practicum education. GSWEC practicums are structured to provide social work graduate students with a well-rounded experience serving older adults. Students in their final year of the MSW program are eligible to apply and can only be placed in a participating GSWEC agency (e.g. must be placed at one of the 14 partnering agencies).

Amount of stipend: \$4,000-\$6,000 depending on agency

Number of stipends available: Up to 15

Employment Obligation: None

How to apply

2 Year Program	This stipend program is only for students entering their final year of practicum. The GSWEC stipend application will be available the spring semester before entering the final year of your MSW program.
3 Year Program	This stipend program is only for students entering their final year of practicum. The GSWEC stipend application will be available the spring semester before entering the final year of your MSW program.
ASP	Depending on admission to program and if GSWEC agencies are still interviewing candidates. Please contact Hermila Melero at hmelero2@calstatela.edu once you are admitted to the Advanced Standing Program and are interested in applying.