SERVE: Indigenous Community Social Workers for Change

Overview/General Information:
SERVE: Indigenous Social Workers for Change (formerly the American Indian Recruitment, AIR, Program) aims to recruit American Indian students into the Title IV-E Stipend Program. Title IV-E, part of the Social Security Act managed by the Administration for Children and Families of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, provides two-year stipends for full-time students who complete an MSW program with a specialization in public child welfare. The stipend is $18,500 per year for full-time MSW students, and $15,000 for the final year of study for full-time BASW students.

For more information about SERVE, the Title IV-E Stipend Program, participating schools, and how to apply, please visit http://calswec.berkeley.edu/title-iv-e-child-welfare-training-program.

SERVE has five main objectives:
1. To increase the enrollment and graduation of American Indians from social work programs offering Bachelor’s of Social Work (BASW) and Master’s of Social Work (MSW) degrees through the Title IV-E Stipend program at universities throughout California;
2. To increase the number of American Indian students receiving Title IV-E stipends;
3. To increase the number of opportunities for all MSW students to complete field placements at Tribal agencies, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations;
4. To increase partnerships between Tribal organizations and advocacy groups and schools of social work throughout California;
5. To increase capacity and curriculum of the CalSWEC-affiliated schools to train social workers with cultural competencies directly related to California’s native population.

Background
The American Indian Recruitment (AIR) Program was initiated in 1981 at UC Berkeley through the American Indian/Alaskan Native Program in Social Welfare. In 1999, the program was adopted by CalSWEC and grew into a statewide effort that operated from California State University, Stanislaus, where it helped to form collaborative working relationships with 67 of 110 California Tribal agencies.

In summer 2011, the AIR Program was expanded and restructured in an effort to strategically increase statewide outreach and development efforts. It now operates from three locations for the state’s Northern, Central, and Southern regions. (See map on page 2.) The name change to SERVE resulted from the desire of community, university, county, and Tribal partners for a name that better reflected the scope of the program’s new focus.

For more information about SERVE
Contact the Program Coordinator for your region (see map on page 2)

- **Northern Region:**
  Humboldt State University
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- **Central Region:**
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  Thomas Phillips
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- **Southern Region:**
  San Diego State University
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SERVE Program Coordinators are available to:
- Help interested American Indian students apply for BASW and MSW programs within California, including Title IV-E Stipend Programs;
- Connect American Indian students to placements in Tribal agencies, Rancherias, or agencies that work extensively with Tribal populations;
- Help Tribal agencies, Rancherias, and child protection service agencies to establish field placement sites for interns;
- Provide assistance with trainings on Native American issues in social welfare and child welfare to universities and child protective agencies.
Click on a school’s name to be taken to its social work department’s website.

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**SCHOOLS**  
California State University, Chico  
Humboldt State University  
Sacramento State University