

**THE
CALSWEC
PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
MSW
TRAINING PROGRAM**

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PUBLIC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MSW TRAINING PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

PROGRAM FUNDING AND GOALS

- **Funded by the California Office of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) as part of statewide behavioral health workforce development initiative**
- **Central goals are:**
 - **To better prepare MSW students to provide effective, evidence-based behavioral health care in publicly funded programs and settings**
 - **To better prepare new MSWs to proactively support the integration of behavioral health care services with and within other public services and systems**
 - **To enhance the retention and development of MSWs in public behavioral health programs and settings**

TRAINEE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **The Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program is open to MSW students who are:**
 - **Enrolled in participating MSW programs as full time, part time or advanced standing students**
 - **Entering either a foundation year or an advanced year of MSW study in good academic standing**
 - **Matched/matching with field placements for the training year at sites that receive public funding to provide behavioral health care services**
 - **Not receiving funding support from any other HCAI administered training or scholarship program**

TRAINEE SELECTION CRITERIA

- **The Public Behavioral Health MSW Training Program seeks MSW students who demonstrate:**
- **Interest in and commitment to learning about the issues, challenges and needs specific to behavioral health care practice in public service settings**
- **Linguistic and cultural competencies that align with the needs of underserved consumers in CA**
- **Strong and sustained commitment to MSW careers as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded programs and settings in California**

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LOGISTICS

TRAINEE AWARD GUIDELINES

- MSW students will be accepted to the training program for one academic year at a time
- MSW students may apply to the program for one year of foundation training and for one year of advanced training, in different academic years
- Acceptance into the training program for one year of foundation training does NOT guarantee acceptance for a second year of advanced training
- MSW students may participate in the training program for a maximum of two academic years

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

- CalSWEC has created and shared a Qualtrics-based training program application for use by all participating MSW programs
- MSW programs will share the application with all potential applicants as a Qualtrics link
- Each MSW program will set its application due date
- Interested students should submit completed applications by their MSW program due date
- CalSWEC will provide application data to each MSW program as requested/after that due date

TRAINEE SELECTION PROCESS

- MSW programs will review all submitted applications, identify and conduct panel interviews with finalists, and select awardees
- MSW programs may invite finalists to panel interviews with faculty and community members
- MSW programs will notify selected trainees after verifying that they are matched with eligible field placements for the training year
- CalSWEC will verify field placement eligibility again in the fall, before trainees sign student service agreements and before stipend funding is awarded

STIPEND AWARDS

- Stipends for full time students (based on campus enrollment rules) are \$25,000 per academic year
- Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements:
 - \$12,500 in mid to late fall semester
 - \$12,500 in mid spring semester
- Stipends for part time students (based on campus enrollment rules) are \$12,500 per academic year
- Trainees will receive stipends in two disbursements:
 - \$6,250 in mid to late fall semester
 - \$6,250 in mid spring semester

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TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

FOUNDATION YEAR COURSEWORK

- Foundation year trainees must complete all required general and behavioral health-focused courses as specified by the MSW program
 - These should be the foundational practice, policy and research courses in which students interested in behavioral health direct service typically enroll
 - The appropriate courses are whatever courses are recommended as preparation for an advanced year behavioral health option or concentration OR for the closest equivalent to such an option or concentration at that MSW program (vs. courses that serve as preparation for options in child welfare, aging, etc)

ADVANCED YEAR COURSEWORK

- Advanced year trainees must complete all behavioral health-focused courses as required and/or specified by the MSW program
 - These should be the advanced practice, policy and research courses in which students focused on behavioral health direct service practice typically enroll
 - The appropriate courses are whatever courses are required for an advanced year behavioral health option or concentration OR for the closest equivalent at that MSW program if no such option/concentration exists (vs. courses required for options/concentrations in child welfare, aging, etc)

FIELD TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

- Foundation year field training must focus on the student contributing to the delivery of publicly funded behavioral health care services
- Advanced year field training must focus on the student providing publicly funded behavioral health services
- Eligible field training sites include community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools, colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, as well as child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court, and adult corrections units that offer publicly funded behavioral health care programs and services

FIELD SEMINAR EXPECTATIONS

- Foundation year trainees' field seminar must include significant focus on behavioral health practice in public systems and should include all trainees if at all possible
 - This should be the field seminar for foundation students interested in behavioral health direct service practice, as designated by the MSW program
- Advanced year trainees' field seminar must include significant focus on behavioral health practice in public systems and should include all trainees if at all possible
 - This should be the field seminar for students in the behavioral health option/concentration or the closest equivalent that MSW program, as designated by the MSW program

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ADDITIONAL TRAINEE COMMITMENTS

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- Trainees must commit to:
 - Participating in all scheduled program meetings and trainings during the training year
 - Completing all pre-/post- training surveys as requested and on time during the training year
 - Providing updated contact info at MSW graduation
 - Completing annual follow-up surveys as requested and on time for at least five years after graduation
 - Completing the post-graduation service obligation
 - Pursuing LCSW licensure

POST-GRADUATION SERVICE OBLIGATION

- For each year of training participation, graduates must provide the equivalent of **12 months** of full time service as behavioral health care providers in publicly funded behavioral health programs and settings
 - Eligible service settings include (but are not limited to) community-based behavioral health care clinics and agencies, inpatient psychiatric hospitals, schools and colleges, SELPAs, inpatient and outpatient health care settings, and child welfare, regional center, juvenile delinquency, court and adult corrections units with publicly funded behavioral health programs and services
- Graduates must verify pursuit of LCSW licensure via BBS registration and the accrual of required hours

POST-GRADUATION REPAYMENT OBLIGATION

- Training program graduates who fail to complete the required service obligation by the deadline based on graduation date will be required to repay the stipend funding to their MSW program
- Graduates who fulfill NONE of the service obligation will be required to repay all stipend funding in full
- Graduates who fulfill SOME but not ALL of the service obligation will be required to repay a prorated amount, based on the total hours of eligible service completed
- Stipend funding repayment plans typically include stipend funding, interest and processing fees