

## What We Stand For

The CalSWEC Mental Health Services Act Public Mental Health Educational Stipend provides \$18,500 to up to ten (10) qualified students preparing for professional careers in public mental health service systems. Students pay tuition, books, mileage and other expenses out of this stipend, and incur a one calendar year “pay back” commitment.

Its purpose is to prepare social workers able to prevent, intervene and treat people experiencing serious mental illness through the life span with a focus on recovery. The stipend program promotes MHSA recovery model principles of services that are:



“All things are difficult before they are easy.”

Thomas Fuller

- ◆ Individualized
- ◆ Person and child-centered
- ◆ Family-focused
- ◆ Voluntary, and provided in the least restrictive environment.
- ◆ Culturally and linguistically competent
- ◆ Collaborative among multiple service systems of care
- ◆ Focused on wellness, recovery, resilience and protective factors that support adaptation
- ◆ Develop and reinforce social and emotional support systems
- ◆ Countering injustice, stigma and discrimination
- ◆ Recognize and promote work, economic development and exits from the system

## Frequently Asked Questions

How much financial aid is provided?

Each stipend provides one year of financial support of \$18,500 for fulltime, second year MSW students, provided in two checks at the beginning of each semester. A stipend may change any Financial Aid package previously offered and have tax implications beyond direct educational costs.

How many stipends are available?

The program may award ten (10) stipends per academic year, contingent upon continuance of funding. The current agreement ends on 6/30/14.

What is the payback requirement?

Upon graduation, all students must work in a California county public mental health system, or community organization under contract to county public mental health agency for one calendar year, in an approved position. Graduates must provide evidence of qualifying employment within 180 days of graduation in any of California’s 58 counties. Any exceptions to this must be requested in writing to the school’s mental health coordinator.

How are students selected to receive a stipend?

First-year students are invited to apply late in the Fall semester. A written application is reviewed and panel interviews held by advisory committee members and program coordinator.

Where can I find more information?

Email program coordinator **Sheila Hembury** at shehe@sfsu.edu or administrator **Madeline Flamer-Banks** at madeline@sfsu.edu



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School of Social Work

College of Health and Social  
Sciences

San Francisco State University

## Public Mental Health Educational Stipend Project 2011-2014



Recovery is when a person  
who was afraid to enter an  
ice cream shop  
ends up running it!

# CalSWEC Public Mental Health Educational Stipend

## Mission



Anchored in the philosophy of the Mental Health Services Act, we seek to fundamentally transform how mental health care

is conceptualized and delivered in California in a culturally competent system that promotes recovery and wellness through independence, hope, personal empowerment and resiliency for adults and seniors with severe mental illnesses and children with serious emotional disorders and their families.

California Social Work Education Center, Mental Health Initiative

## Participation Requirements

- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to community mental health
- ◆ Enrolled full time in final year, graduating with MSW in May of the next year (2013 or 2014)
- ◆ Maintain good academic and field standing
- ◆ Enroll in dedicated mental health seminar; attend any required classes and trainings
- ◆ Complete an internship, and “payback job” working with voluntary clients in county mental health system or agencies under contract
- ◆ Able to pass a background check to work in public mental health
- ◆ Incorporate public mental health competencies into learning agreement
- ◆ Agree to stay in touch with the project through payback period and beyond for surveys and feedback.



## Desirable Qualifications

- ◆ Experience or interest in mental health recovery
- ◆ Able to reflect and serve the diverse people of California
- ◆ Possess a needed second language
- ◆ Have direct or family experience with the mental health system



## Payback Requirements

Upon graduation, the student has up to 180 days to become employed in a qualifying job at an MSW level. After one year of employment, the stipend is considered fully completed.

Until employed, graduates will track their job search, and will request an extension if necessary.

We hope that graduates will skillfully and respectfully work to transform the public systems serving people with mental illness.