



**CALIFORNIA SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION CENTER (CalSWEC)
MENTAL HEALTH STIPEND PROJECT
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION
2012-2013**

The CalSWEC Mental Health Project was designed in response to the shortage of MSW level mental health professionals in California. The Mental Health Services Act (MHSA, formerly Proposition 63), which was passed by the California electorate in 2004 and became effective January 2005, is the source of funding.

The Department of Mental Health is looking to transform mental health services in four main target groups:

- Seriously and persistently mentally ill adults
- Older adults with mental illness
- Seriously emotionally disturbed children
- Transitional/high-risk adolescents

CalSWEC MH STIPEND RECIPIENTS – Student Selection

The CalSWEC Mental Health stipend is for graduate students who are in their second year, graduating in May 2014, and who are interested in pursuing a social work career in the mental health field. Recipients must be willing to make a commitment to work full-time in a California county mental health/behavioral services agency or a county-contracted agency after they have received their MSW degrees. Preference for this stipend will be given to qualified applicants of ethno-cultural minority groups who are served in increasing numbers by county agencies. Fluency in a second language as needed by mental health agencies is also a plus. Other selection criteria will be established as needed.

Students who are accepted into this program agree to complete the entire MSW program at SFSU and to participate in required mental health elective courses and any additional workshops. Students must continue to perform satisfactorily in the program and internship, social work practice courses, meet all thesis deadlines and remain in good academic standing (graduate with a GPA of 3.0 or better), receive a security clearance to work within county mental health services, and uphold the NASW Code of Ethics.

EDUCATION SUPPORT/STUDENT STIPEND

The CalSWEC MH Project provides \$18,500 per academic year.

STUDENT COMMITMENT

Students who are accepted into this program will sign written agreements, which are legal contracts outlining their responsibilities and commitment to the CalSWEC MH Project. These agreements are for the students' tenure while in the graduate MSW program and for a period of 5 years following graduation from the MSW program.

Responsibilities and Commitment While a Graduate Student

The Student will:

- Agree to complete and graduate from the MSW program at SFSU within the required timelines established for each program model.
- Agree to take any required classes, including mental health field internship placements, approved mental health elective, and participate in selected workshops or annual seminars on issues related to mental health services and policy.

- Continue to perform satisfactorily in the program and remain in good academic standing (graduate GPA of 3.0 or better).
- Willing to obtain a security clearance/Livescan to show eligibility to work in county mental health.
- Inform the CalSWEC MH Project Coordinator of any changes which will interrupt studies and/or delay graduation.
- Uphold the NASW Code of Ethics.

Responsibilities and Commitment after Graduation

The following employment requirements **must** be met.

1. The student agrees to render at least one calendar year of continuous and satisfactory full-time employment at a county mental health agency within the State of California, or at an agency that contracts with a county mental health agency within the State of California, for each year of educational reimbursement/graduate study.
2. The student agrees to secure employment within four (4) months of graduation in a county or county-funded agency in the State of California. If no county or county-funded agency position is available within a 75-mile radius from home within the aforementioned time period, the student agrees to seek employment within the State of California in a county or county-funded mental health agency.
3. If the student is unable to obtain employment and has made a "good faith" effort, a request to postpone payback for up to one year can be made. The request must be submitted in writing to the CalSWEC MH Project Coordinator, with documentation attached of all efforts made to secure employment.
4. If the student fails to secure employment after making a comparable effort in the next year, then a request to waive repayment may be submitted to the CalSWEC MH Project Coordinator with documentation.

Payback Agreement

In addition, students are responsible for payback of stipend/educational reimbursement and any costs of collection under any of the following conditions:

1. Failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing, which is defined as upholding a GPA of 3.0 or better every semester, receiving Credit in internship, and completing thesis/project within all required deadlines.
2. Failure to complete the MSW program within the normative period
3. Failure to accept appropriate employment following graduation
4. Failure to qualify for employment as a result of failing an interview, medical, or psychological exam, or criminal clearance
5. The student is convicted of any crime that disqualifies employment in a county public mental health agency or contracted agency which would then render the student ineligible for, or cause termination from, the Program
6. Voluntary termination of employment before completion of the work requirement
7. Termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor work or misconduct
8. Violation of the NASW Code of Ethics

Additional Information

For more information about this program, contact the SFSU CalSWEC Mental Health Project Coordinator: Sheila Hembury LCSW, CPRP, Office HSS 227, 415-338-7530 (Monday and Wednesday only)

shehe@sfsu.edu