



SOCIAL WORK

APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC CHILD WELFARE STIPEND
County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

CONDITIONS GOVERNING THE DCFS TITLE IV-E STIPEND*

- 1. Nature of Stipend:** The County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Title IV-E Stipend provides for one year of support of \$18,500 for full-time students in the Master of Social Work program. This stipend and the MSW program are designed to prepare students for careers in public child welfare. Students will spend their Generalist Practice year placement at a community-based agency or organization. The Specialized Practice year placement will be at the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), which is a public child welfare agency.
- 2. Work Requirements:** Students must sign a contract agreeing to pay back this award by securing employment with the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) within 120 days of graduation. Students will work at one of the DCFS regional offices within the County of Los Angeles. They must work one year for the one year of aid awarded. During this payback period, salary and benefits are received. DCFS hosts employment information sessions in the spring semester of your second year, so you can be apprised of all your options. A student may be released from the payback requirements under certain hardship conditions.
- 3. Work Interruption:** A graduate who terminates employment before the payback requirement is completed must repay the full stipend. If there has been partial fulfillment of the work commitment, the amount owed will be prorated. Waivers of repayment may be made in case of permanent disability or death. If a graduate is laid off because of county budget cuts, he/she/they will not be penalized. However, he/she/they must participate in an active job search again.
- 4. Payback Requirements:** Students are responsible for payback of stipends and any costs of collection under the following circumstances:
 - a) failure to complete the MSW within the normative two-year period (unless a hardship extension is granted);
 - b) failure to accept appropriate employment at the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services;
 - c) failure to qualify for any public child welfare agency employment, as a result of failing interviews, medical or psychological exams, or criminal clearance;
 - d) failure to disclose a past or subsequent conviction for a felony or a crime involving harm to children; driving under the influence conviction within the last five (5) years;
 - e) voluntary termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor or improper conduct; and
 - f) termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor or improper conduct; and
 - g) violation of the NASW Code of Ethics.

*Please note that the Title IV-E stipend award is contingent upon the availability of Title IV-E funds.



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Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Language(s) Spoken Fluently (other than English): _____

To qualify for employment, you must be either (a) a citizen of the United States of America, or (b) a registered alien with government permission to work in this country. Does either statement (a) or (b) describe your status as a resident of this country? Yes _____ No _____

You must have your social security card in order to complete processing with the County.

Are you currently a County employee applying for an educational leave? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, Name of Agency: _____

Agency Address: _____

Job Title: _____ Supervisor Name: _____

List any previous related work experiences, including names of agencies in which you were employed:

(Attach an additional page or resume, if necessary.)

Agency: _____

Dates of Association/Employment: From: _____ To: _____

Responsibilities: _____

Agency: _____

Dates of Association/Employment: From: _____ To: _____

Responsibilities: _____

List related internships, volunteer experiences, and/or research duties:

List academic awards and/or publications:

I give my permission for the DCFS Interviewing Panel to review my original application and personal statement for admission to the MSW Program at CSUDH ____ Yes ____ No
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1. Personal Statement:

Please write no more than two (8 ½ x 11) pages responding to all the following questions separately, in the following order (Please restate question in your answer.):

- (1) What is it about child welfare or child protective services that attracts you?
- (2) What are the personal strengths that you might bring to this training opportunity?
- (3) Are there any personal/family issues (religious beliefs, time commitments) or circumstances that might be obstacles to successfully completing this demanding fieldwork placement or work commitment?
- (4) What is your understanding of the commitment involved in accepting an DCFS stipend award?
- (5) What is your understanding of the duties and responsibilities of a public child welfare worker?

2. Please provide no more than a one-page response to the following vignette and question.

Lopez Family: mother, father, and three children; the oldest is Eduardo, a 10-year-old male. Suspected child abuse report alleges that Eduardo was severely physically abused, because he got bad grades on his report card. When you get to the home, the mother tells you that her husband beats Eduardo, but she cannot say anything because she is afraid of him. You have previously conducted a criminal record check and found out that he was convicted of an assault charge (related to domestic violence) two years ago. As a public child welfare worker, what would be your goal here? Tell us three things you would do to address your goal.

BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I SIGNIFY MY UNDERSTANDING...

That this award requires that I maintain full-time enrollment, with a GPA of 3.0 or higher in the MSW program, and have declared my field of specialization as Children, Youth, and Families; I will be placed in a public child welfare agency serving child welfare clients for my fieldwork courses; and that I am obligated to pay back this award through a one year work commitment at a regional office of the County of Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services. I also understand that it is my responsibility to investigate any personal tax implications of this award with my own tax advisor.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Continue to next page

Name: _____

CLEARANCES REQUIRED FOR FIELD PLACEMENTS

DCFS student interns will be expected to meet all requirements and clearances required of public child welfare agencies. Those include:

- **Submit to and pass a background clearance**
- **Submit to and pass physical exam**
- **Submit to and pass psychological exam**

Individuals who have a criminal background *may or may not* be excluded from DCFS as a placement agency. In order to determine if a criminal record might prevent eligibility for a DCFS placement, please answer the following questions:

(All responses will be kept confidential and will be shared only for the purposes of determining field placement eligibility.)

1. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? (includes misdemeanor and/or felony) _____yes _____no
(If your response is no, you may skip the remaining questions and sign and date form at the bottom of page.)

2. Please identify any and all convictions and provide the following information for each:

- a. What was official conviction?
- b. In what State were you arrested/convicted?
- c. Was conviction a felony or misdemeanor?
- d. When were you convicted?
- e. Results of conviction (incarceration, probation, parole)?
- f. If you were on probation or parole, when did it conclude?
- g. Have you met all the stipulations of the Court or is anything still pending?
- h. Will your conviction show up on a Live Scan or other background clearance check?

3. Please provide any additional information that you believe might prevent you from meeting the required clearances outlined above.

As previously stated, there are some convictions and other circumstances (e.g., length of time since the conviction) that will not negatively affect a student's placement in DCFS. However, failure to disclose a criminal background may impact our ability to place a student with DCFS and would thus make the student ineligible for this placement and the DCFS stipend.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to consult with Paul Vu, DCFS Stipend Coordinator by email at pvu@csudh.edu or through telephone by calling the Department of Social Work office number (310) 243-3170.

By my signature below, I signify my understanding regarding my responsibility to disclose any criminal background or other eligibility requirements as identified above (e.g., ability to pass a physical exam) and declare that I have provided complete disclosure regarding questions 1 – 3 above.

Signature

Date

Print Name