



## Los Angeles County DCFS Stipend Program

The Los Angeles Department of Children Family Services (LA DCFS) Stipend Program is a partnership between the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and social work programs in Los Angeles County, including the CSUN Department of Social Work, USC School of Social Work, UCLA Department of Social Welfare; Department of Social Work at California State University, Long Beach; Department of Social Work at California State University, Dominguez Hills; and Department of Social Work at California State University, Los Angeles. In order to prepare professional social workers to work in public child welfare, the LA DCFS internship includes a one-year educational stipend of \$18,500 to MSW students in exchange for a commitment to work at DCFS for one year after graduation. The internship is available to students as a second-year internship.

**Location of CSUN 's LA DCFS  
Stipend Program:**

**Palmdale Office:**

39959 Sierra Highway, Suite A-150  
Palmdale, CA 93550

**Lancaster Office:**

300 East Avenue K-6  
Lancaster, CA 93535

### **1. Nature of the Stipend**

The Title IV-E stipends provide support of \$18,500 per year, for one year, to students in the MSW program. The internship and stipend support prepare students for careers in public child welfare. This second-year designated practicum placement must be in a Los Angeles County Department of Child and Family Services regional office. Offices are currently located at the Palmdale and Lancaster Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) regional offices.

### **2. Work Requirements**

Students must sign a contract agreeing to work back this award by securing paid employment immediately upon receiving their MSW degree with Los Angeles County DCFS. The work-back commitment is for one year. However, students committed to continuing a career track as professional social workers in public child welfare beyond their work-back commitment are preferred.

### **3. Work Interruption**

A graduate who terminates employment before completing the work-back requirements must repay the pro-rated stipend to Los Angeles County DCFS.

### **4. Pay Back Requirements**

Students are responsible for the payback of stipends and any costs of collection under the following circumstances:

- a) Failure to maintain good standing in the MSW program (performance below 3.0 GPA or poor field performance);
- b) Failure to complete the MSW within the two- or three-year period (unless granted a hardship extension);
- c) Failure to accept appropriate employment;
- d) Failure to qualify for employment as a result of failing an interview, medical or psychological exam, or criminal clearance;
- e) A conviction for a felony or crime involving harm to children;
- f) Voluntary termination of employment before completion of the work requirement (unless granted a hardship extension);
- g) Termination of employment before completion of the work requirement due to poor or improper conduct; and
- h) Violation of NASW Code of Ethics.

#### 5. Selection of Students

Students who meet MSW program admission standards and who can demonstrate a genuine interest in child welfare are encouraged to apply. Decisions are based on a written application and an in-person interview.

#### 6. Necessary Requirements

- Valid driver's license, current automobile insurance with their name listed as an insured driver, and the secured use of a reliable vehicle.
- Successful passage of all required security clearances as determined by the Department of Children and Family Services, including Medical Exam/Psychological Evaluation/Criminal Background Check
- Eligibility for lawful employment within California State laws
- Enrollment in designated child welfare elective coursework (when offered), including SWRK 650, Child Welfare Elective.

#### 7. Application Due Dates

Affirmation Sheet due:	Completed at Interview
Application Due:	No later than January 9, 2023
Interviews Begin:	January 2023*
Conditional Acceptance Notices Distributed:	Summer 2023*

\*Dates to be announced and notification sent via CSUN email.

### Contacts:

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