

Two-Year Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program Essay Questions



Dear Entering 2-Year Student:

California is experiencing a drastic shortage of professionals in public child welfare holding a master's degree in social work. In an attempt to alleviate this shortage, the Department of Social Work at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM) is participating in a workforce development initiative for social work students who are interested in public child welfare. The California Social Work Education Center (CalSWEC), a unit of the School of Social Welfare at the University of California, Berkeley, operates the Title IV-E Stipend Program throughout California. CalSWEC provides stipends to qualifying Master's-level students at CSUSM.

The goal of the program is to produce social workers who will secure employment and embark on a career working in the field of public child welfare. Your acceptance of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend requires a genuine interest and intention to work for a public child welfare agency upon graduation. Public child welfare demands the highest level of professional skills and knowledge to preserve, support and strengthen families. Here in San Diego, Child Welfare Services is committed to excellence in the delivery of culturally competent, family-centered and child-focused protective services. The MSW Program in the Department of Social Work at CSUSM is proud to be part of the movement to professionalize public child welfare programs in the State of California.

The following essay questions have neither a right nor wrong answer, but will serve as a means of assessing your potential in public child welfare.

Please answer the following five questions in essay format. Reply to each question separately. Please number your responses to the corresponding question, double-spaced, 12-point font, with your name at the top of each page, 2 pages maximum. Please attach your completed essay as instructed in the Title IV-E electronic application.

1. What is your understanding of the purpose of the Title IV-E Stipend Program?
2. Describe your understanding of what work in a public child welfare setting entails.
 - a. In what way has your prior experience prepared you for working in a public child welfare internship?
 - b. What interests you about public child welfare that makes you think you would like to focus your education and career in this area?
3. What personal characteristics do you have that will help you work successfully in the child welfare field? What personal challenges might you face?
4. Describe what you perceive a day in the life of a Protective Services Worker would look like.
5. What are some of the reasons Child Welfare might get involved with families?

Thank you for your interest in the Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program at CSUSM.