

## Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program Essay Questions

California is experiencing a drastic shortage of professionals in public child welfare holding a master's degree in social work. 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 (Master of Social Work) 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.

**Please use the following links to explore child welfare topics *prior* to responding to the questions:**

[Title IV-E Student Recruitment Video](#)

[A Look into the New Child and Family Well-Being Department](#)

[Child Welfare Worker Realistic Job Preview](#)

[Title IV-E Graduate Testimonial, en Español](#)

The following essay questions have neither a right nor wrong answer but will assess your potential as a future employee in public child welfare. Your writing should be your own. We recognize the power and convenience of a tool that can assist with language, grammar and structure in an essay or application, but Artificial Intelligence (AI)-generated essays cannot really capture who you are as a person. This essay is a valuable component of your application, and we value your experiences and your voice. Please use AI programs only to check grammar, brainstorm ideas, organize your thoughts, and edit.

Please answer the following four 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 minimum, 3 pages maximum. Please upload your completed essay as a **pdf**.

1. Please provide 3-5 areas of interest that support your passion to have a career in child welfare.
2. The IV-E Program is designed to provide professional training, education, and mentoring in the field of child welfare, as well as financial support. Please provide a detailed discussion of how this aligns with your career objectives.
3. *After reviewing the links above*, and as you consider a career in child welfare, please identify 3-5 personal challenges or difficulties you might face working in this field.
4. The IV-E Program is designed to develop future professionals who possess a genuine desire to have a long-term career in child welfare. The program recognizes the challenges of a career in child welfare. For example, during the pandemic, child welfare workers were asked to continue in the field to ensure children's safety. In addition, this field has reported high levels of burnout. In contrast, workers state high job satisfaction in their ability to support families. Why do you feel you are a good fit for this stipend? Please include your strengths, personality traits, and life experiences that would contribute to your success in this challenging and rewarding field.