

AGING AND ADULT SERVICES (AAS) MSW INTERN TRAINING PROGRAM

California has launched a statewide Aging and Adult Services (AAS) MSW Training Program to address California's pressing adult protective services workforce development needs. Funded by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) as part of a statewide workforce development initiative identified as a top priority in California's Master Plan for Aging. The central goals are:

- To better prepare new MSWs to provide effective, evidence-based professional social work services to meet the complex needs of aging and vulnerable adults served by California's public Adult Services system
- To enhance the hiring, retention and career development of MSWs working in public Adult Services programs in all regions of California.

AWARD GUIDELINES

- MSW students are accepted into the AAS training program for one academic year at a time
- MSW students may apply to the program for one year of foundation training and one year of advanced training, in different academic years when they will participate in field training
- Acceptance into the training program for one year of foundation training does NOT guarantee acceptance for a second year of advanced training
- MSW students may participate in the training program for a maximum of two academic years (one foundation year and one advanced year)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The AAS MSW Training Program is open to MSW students who are:

- Enrolled 2-year, 3-year, or advanced standing students
- Entering the proposed training year in good academic standing
- Matched with field placements in eligible training sites for the proposed training year
- Not receiving funding support through CDSS in any other manner

TRAINING SELECTION

The Aging and Adult Services MSW Training Program seeks MSW students who demonstrate:

- Interest in and commitment to learning about the issues, challenges and needs specific to social work practice with aging and vulnerable adults served by public systems
- Linguistic and cultural competencies that align with the needs of the underserved populations
- Strong and sustained commitment to social work careers working with aging and vulnerable adults in public adult services programs in California.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Attend an informational session through CSULB
2. Complete the application by the due date.

3. Those selected will complete a Zoom interview with CSULB PC and other interviewees.
4. If you pass the interview, you will be matched to one qualifying site and one non-qualifying site.
5. If you are selected by a qualifying site for your internship, you will be asked to complete another application from the host university, SJSU
6. You will be notified if you are accepted before the start of the academic year

AAS STIPEND AWARDS

Admitted trainees will receive stipends of \$25,000 per academic year

- Trainees receive two stipend disbursements of \$12,500 each
- Both fall and spring disbursements are sent to trainees in mid semester, after confirmation of course registrations and academic standing

PROGRAM COMMITMENT

- Foundation Year trainees must agree to choose Adulthood and Aging as their specialization for their advanced year (even if they chose not to apply for the program during their advanced year)
- Advanced year trainees must choose the Aging and Adulthood Specialization
- All trainees must attend monthly 1-hour seminar classes with the AAS Program Coordinator (in addition to their regular seminar classes)
- AAS trainees must participate in all trainee meetings scheduled by SJSU during the training year, including the trainee program orientation and the new graduate orientation, as well as any individual meetings requested
- AAS trainees must complete all virtual trainings designated and scheduled by SJSU for AAS trainees during the training year (these are NOT optional)
- This typically includes at least two virtual trainings during each semester
- Trainings are focused on key skills for social work practice with aging and vulnerable adults served by public Adult Services systems
- AAS trainees must complete the trainee information, field training, demographic and pre-/post-training surveys as requested and on time during the training year

POST AAS SERVICE OBLIGATION

- For each year of training participation, AAS graduates must complete the equivalent of 12 months of full-time service within the state of California
- AAS graduates must begin searching for an eligible service position within 6-months of MSW graduation
- AAS graduates must begin service within 12-months of MSW graduation
- AAS graduates must complete required service (either 12 or 24 months depending on years of training) within 36 months of MSW graduation
- AAS service can be completed on a full-time or part-time basis, but must involve working a minimum average of 20 hours per week each month
- Full-time employment is defined by the employer and may be defined as 32, 35, 37.5 or 40 hours per week depending on the employer

ELIGIBLE POST AAS SERVICE SITES

Eligible sites for the completion of the AAS service obligation include:

- Adult Protective Services units in County/Tribal Adult Services Departments
- In Home Supportive Services units in County/Tribal Adult Services Depts
- Public Guardian/Public Conservator units in County/Tribal Adult Services Depts
- Behavioral health programs for aging and vulnerable adults housed in County/Tribal Adult Services and Behavioral Health Departments
- Area Agency on Aging programs funded by the California Department of Aging

MORE ON ELIGIBLE POST AAS SERVICE SITES

AAS service employment sites must be BOTH (1) publicly funded to provide direct services AND (2) serve aging and/or vulnerable adults (not either/or)

- If service is fulfilled in an eligible nonprofit setting (AAA), the specific services the AAS graduate provides MUST be supported by public funding
- The specific services the AAS graduate provides MUST serve aging and/or vulnerable adults explicitly and by design, NOT incidentally
- Accepting Medi-Cal reimbursement as a form of insurance coverage does NOT qualify a site as being publicly funded

PAYBACK AGREEMENT

- Former AAS trainees who fail to complete (1) the MSW degree, (2) the training program OR (3) the service obligation within 36 months of MSW graduation must repay the stipend funding they received
- Former AAS trainees and AAS graduates who fulfill NONE of the service obligation must repay all stipend funding in full AAS graduates who fulfill SOME but NOT ALL of the service obligation must repay a prorated amount based on the number of months of eligible service completed
- Stipend funding repayment plans typically involve monthly payments spread out over 12-24 months and may include interest and fees as well as stipend funding
- The key to staying out of repayment is staying in communication with SJSU
- CDSS does not actually want graduates to end up in repayment and SJSU works hard to help graduates avoid this outcome

CONTACT US

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