

University of West Florida
Department of Social Work
Title IV-E Child Welfare Education Stipend Program

Title IV-E of the Social Security Act provides federal matching funds to states for directly administering the Foster Care and Adoption Assistance programs. Its objective is to improve the quality of care of children in foster care, reduce the number of children in foster care, return children to their homes as soon as conditions permit, and facilitate the adoption or permanent placement of children who cannot be returned to their homes. The purpose of the program is to educate and train social work graduates to work as child welfare professionals in the areas of foster care and adoption. The program is seen as a win-win situation, as students see the program as obtaining specialized professional training in child welfare with post graduation employment while local agencies view the program as a way to hire qualified child welfare professionals.

The program is a collaborative effort with other state schools that are members of the Florida Association of the Deans and Directors of the Schools of Social Work (FADD): Florida A&M University, Florida International University, Florida State University, the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of West Florida.

Requirements for participation: Students interested in the Title IV-E program must complete an application and meet all requirements. They must be registered full-time and accepted as an upper division undergraduate student or as a graduate student at the University of West Florida, Department of Social Work. Stipend recipients must have reliable transportation, required vehicle insurance, and undergo pre-screening for employment. After completion of the stipend program, upon graduation, the student who received a stipend will be required to fulfill a work commitment with an authorized Community Based Care provider agency for one year. The student must commit to one year of work for each stipend received. Students who do not fulfill the one-year, post graduation employment commitment will be required to pay back the stipend.

Prerequisite: Students must complete SOW 3650 Introduction to Child Welfare, and SOW 4242 Families and Family Treatment, as well as an internship serving Title IV-E children and families.

The Title IV-E stipends provide support for full-time students who complete the social work program with a specialization in child welfare. Stipends for MSW and BSW students are \$6,000.00 for one semester. Stipends are awarded during the senior field placement semester. BSW students who continue into the MSW program may reapply as graduate students. First year MSW students may also reapply to the stipend program for their final field placement.

Students interested in this program should contact

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