

CHILD WELFARE STIPEND PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To provide BSSW and MSW* students with the specialized skills, knowledge, and practice competencies in order to carry out the services and statutory responsibilities for the care and protection of children; and to provide the community-based care (CBC) providers contracted with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) with skilled staff who are prepared to meet the critical service needs of Florida's children and families.

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS:

- ❖ Students will receive a \$6,000 stipend per year**
- ❖ Students will receive the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively assess and intervene with vulnerable children and families.
- ❖ Students will receive direct practice experience with a child protection agency.
- ❖ Students will receive a Certificate in Child Welfare Practice.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- ❖ Students eligible for this program must be fully admitted into the Social Work BSSW or MSW programs and must be registered as full-time students (12 or 9 credits respectively).
- ❖ Students also must complete clearance for employment with the CBC provider prior to program acceptance. The assessment and evaluation process at the CBC agencies generally includes an abuse registry check, drug screening, references check, fingerprint and background screening, and an interview.
- ❖ After graduation, students will be required to fulfill employment at a CBC provider that contracts with DCF for one year.
- ❖ Students must complete the following:
 - SOW 4654/5905—Child Welfare Practice: Assessment and Planning
 - SOW 4658/5905—Mental Health Services for Children & Adolescents in Child Welfare
 - Two consecutive field internships (one for MSW I students) with a CBC agency.

For more information contact:

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*Limited opportunities may be available at the MSW level

**Students are strongly advised to consult with Financial Aid for budget planning.