

**The Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership Program:**

**Current CPS/SSCC Employees**

*Advancing the Child Welfare Workforce in Texas*

**What is the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership (CWP) Program for CPS/SSCC employees?**

* The Title IV-E CWP program is a great opportunity for CPS/SSCC employees in Title IV-E eligible positions who want to enhance their knowledge and skills through the completion of a fully accredited MSW program offered online through the School of Social Work at Texas State University.

**How does it work?**

* If you qualify and are accepted into the program, you will continue working in your current CPS/SSCC position full-time, while attending the part-time online MSW program at Texas State University. Students in the program take 2 online courses per semester. With this program, 100% of the courses will be offered online.
* If accepted to the program, the Title IV-E stipend will cover tuition and course-related fees for each semester you are enrolled at Texas State, and provide a small amount of extra money each semester to assist with miscellaneous educational expenses. Upon graduation with your MSW degree, you are obligated by contract to continue working for CPS/SSCC in a Title IV-E eligible position for a comparable length of time that you received financial assistance (four months for every semester you received the stipend).

**The MSW program at Texas State University:**

The MSW program at Texas State University offers two different tracks:

* The **Foundation Degree Track** is for students who do not hold a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree from an accredited program but instead have a bachelor degree in another field of study. The Foundation Track is 62 credit hours.
* The **Advanced Standing Track** is for graduates of a Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) accredited BSW program, with a BSW obtained within the last 10 years. The Advanced Standing Track is 36 credit hours.

**What are the entrance requirements for the MSW Program at Texas State University?**

* The MSW program at Texas State currently admits students one time a year, every August, for a Fall semester start. The Priority Deadline for application submissions is January 15th, with a Standard Deadline of March 15th.
* Applicants must have a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited University.
* You can have a BA or BS in any field, but you need to have at least a 2.9 GPA in the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.
* The GRE is not required.
* All applicants must participate in an interview as a part of the application process.

**How do I apply to the MSW program?**

* The application process is entirely online, and you can find information about the process at <http://www.gradcollege.txstate.edu/>. Additional information about the program and application requirements can be found at: <http://mycatalog.txstate.edu/graduate/applied-arts/social-work/social-work-online-regular-msw/#admissionstext>
* There are two applications required – the Graduate College Application and the Departmental Application.
* Please be sure to complete ALL of the application steps by the application due date to be considered for the MSW program.
* For additional information, please review the Frequently Asked Questions page of the MSW Program website: <https://www.socialwork.txstate.edu/graduate/msw-frequently-asked-questions.html>
* For specific questions about the MSW program, please email:mswprogram@txstate.edu.

**Who is eligible to receive the Title IV-E stipend at Texas State University?**

* This program is available to *current* CPS/SSCC employees in Regions 1, 2, 7, 8, and 9 in Texas.
* CPS/SSCC employees must be employed by the agency for at least one year, and must be in a Title IV-E position (includes CVS, FAD, Kinship, Local Permanency Specialists, CPU, FGDM, PAL, RTC Coordinator, Youth, Disability, and Education Specialists) at the time of application to be eligible for the stipend program.
* The employee must first be accepted to the MSW program at Texas State University, and then apply with regional DFPS administration to receive the stipend.
* While Texas State makes the decision about who is accepted to participate in the MSW program, the agency (CPS/SSCC) makes the final decision about who is approved to receive the stipend.
* The CPS/SSCC application process may differ from region to region, but generally will require Supervisor, PD, PA, and RD Approval. The ROSA in each Region will assist with the application process.
* If approved, the employee will continue to work full-time in a Title IV-E position at CPS/SSCC, and go to school part-time. The stipend will pay for tuition and course-related fees with a small extra amount each semester to cover miscellaneous educational expenses. After graduation, the employee is obligated by contract to continue working at CPS/SSCC in a Title IV-E position for approximately the same amount of time it took the employee to complete the MSW program, as documented in the official DFPS Title IV-E contract.
* **Funding slots for this program are limited. If you are applying to the MSW program at Texas State University and you are planning to apply with regional CPS/SSCC administration to receive Title IV-E funding, please let the Child Welfare Partnership Team know no later than March 1st so that we can plan accordingly.**

**I’m interested! Who should I contact?**

* If you are interested in learning more about the CWP program or applying to the program, please contact Martha Wildberger at mw38@txstate.edu.

*The mission of the Title IV-E Child Welfare Partnership (CWP) is to enhance the values, knowledge, and skills of the child welfare workforce in Texas through social work education, financial assistance, ongoing training, and career support.*

<https://www.socialwork.txstate.edu/students/Stipends/Title-IV-E-Child-Welfare-Partnership.html>