Title IV-E Child Welfare Education and Training Program

Augusta University Title IV-E Program is accepting applications for the 2020-2021 academic year from current Augusta University BSW students!!

Applications are due June 29th, 2020.

What is the Title IV-E Child Welfare Education and Training Program?

The Title IV-E Child Welfare Education and Training Program is a competitive stipend program. There are limited spots and not all students that apply will be accepted. It is a rigorous selection process; therefore, applicants want to be sure they are submitting complete, high quality applications to be considered.

The intent of the program is to support public child welfare education and training to build and retain a competent, stable workforce to enhance the delivery of public child welfare services to families and children in foster care and/or going through adoption. The field of child welfare is not for everyone. Please be sure to explore resources related to the profession to help determine whether you are a good fit before you formally apply.

The Augusta University BSW Program partners with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS) in various counties across the state. Students obtain their BSW at Augusta University and complete their field education component working in direct public child welfare practice at a designated DFCS office.

All Title IV-E students are contractually obligated to work for DFCS one year for every academic year of Title IV-E Funding. Current DFCS employees/S.E.E.D. applicants are required to remain at DFCS for one additional year of employment for every academic year of Title IV-E funding.

What is Title IV-E funding?

Title IV-E funding is the major source of funding from the federal government that is earmarked for the education and training of the child welfare workforce across the United States. The Title IV-E Child Welfare Education and Training Programs were first initiated in 1980 with the passing of the Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act (P.L. 96-272). The Title IV-E funding provides financial support to (1) current public child welfare staff wanting to return to school to acquire an advanced degree (usually an MSW) to improve their child welfare practice and, (2) students admitted into BSW or MSW programs who are seeking a long-term career in the field of child welfare.
Augusta University Title IV-E Mission

Augusta University Title IV-E Program for BSW students, in partnership with the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), is committed to the development of a stable, competent and professional, child welfare workforce to better serve and strengthen families and to improve child well-being.

Augusta University Title IV-E Program Objectives

1. To increase the number of current public child welfare employees with BSW degrees from colleges and universities in the state of Georgia.

2. To prepare BSW graduates with the knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for employment in the state’s child welfare system.

3. To increase the number of BSW job ready graduates who seek and obtain employment in DFCS child welfare positions.

4. To improve retention rates of BSW IV-E students and graduates employed with DFCS.

What does the Title IV-E program reimburse?

Tuition and Fees-Title IV-E students are eligible to receive their fall, spring and summer (if enrolled in summer courses) tuition paid in full for each semester in which they are enrolled in the program.

Monthly Living Expense Stipends-Students will receive a monthly stipend to assist with books, mileage and other living expenses each semester in which they are enrolled in the program.

Travel- Students are eligible to apply for travel funds to attend and participate in a child welfare related conference of their choice. For students to attend additional conferences, they will need to either volunteer or submit an abstract for a student presentation (or jointly with a professor).

How do I apply?

Application Process:

1. Complete the formal DFCS Title IV-E Application by June 29th, 2020

Applicants must complete the formal DFCS application on-line at: https://www.gadfcs.org/grant/cwg.jsp

Be sure to read the application instructions carefully.

*Note: incomplete DFCS applications will not be considered.
2. Complete GSU Pre-Screening Application

Once the formal DFCS application is reviewed, applicants will be e-mailed a link to the on-line, Title IV-E Pre-screening Application. All GSU applicants must complete the Pre-Screen Application to be further considered.

All applicants will need to upload the following documents to the pre-screen application:

1. A formal cover letter outlining why they are interested in the program and how they are a good fit for public child welfare.
2. A current resume.

*Note: incomplete Pre-screen Applications will not be considered.

3. Complete a Formal Interview:

The top applicants will be invited to an in-person interview with GSU Faculty and staff and DFCS Training Specialists and staff in early July. Students will be required to complete an on-site writing sample and an “In-box Scenario” exercise as part of the interview process.

4. Attend Mandatory Orientation:

If selected, Title IV-E grant recipients are required to attend mandatory orientation to:

1. Review the policies and procedures related to the program
2. Sign the Student Agreement (the contract between the student and DFCS)
3. Be LiveScan Fingerprinted.
4. Complete all releases of information

**If you are unsure whether you are suited for a long-term career in child welfare, please make an appointment with the BSW Program Director to discuss whether public child welfare is a fit for you. Dr. Ziembroski is the BSW Program Director. Please contact her via email jziembroski@augusta.edu.