

2013-14 MFT Stipend Program

\$18,500 will be awarded to MFT students who are interested in pursuing a career in public mental health practice

Application deadline is October 15, 2013

Application materials will be available on September 4, 2013 on the website of Phillips Graduate Institute, www.pgi.edu (MFT Consortium>California State Stipend Program) or through the stipend representative at the student's school.



The MFT Consortium of California

The MFT Consortium of California, representing the academic institutions with graduate programs in marriage and family therapy, will be awarding 84 educational stipends throughout the State. This statewide stipend program, administered by Phillips Graduate Institute in Chatsworth, CA, is part of the workforce development efforts funded through the Mental Health Services Act under the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development.

Why is the State awarding educational stipends?

The Educational MFT Stipend Program is one of several incentive programs funded through the Mental Health Services Act under the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. These programs promote the academic education and practicum training of students in the mental health disciplines within the principles and values espoused by the Mental Health Services Act in addressing the statewide workforce need for mental health practitioners in underserved communities.

Who is eligible to apply for the MFT stipends?

Students completing their degree between July 1, 2013 and December 31, 2014 are eligible to apply for the 2013-14 MFT stipends. Completion of degree refers to the conferral date posted on the official transcripts. The degree must be from an academic institution that is an active member of a regional MFT Consortium. The degree obtained must qualify the student for registration as an MFT Intern with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Students must also qualify for employment in California.

What is required of me if I am awarded an MFT stipend?

Recipients of the MFT stipends will be required to commit one year of paid employment or volunteer placement at a mental health service agency operated by or affiliated with a county mental health department. The qualifying position needs to be as a mental health clinician that requires MFT intern registration. The MFT Stipend Program at Phillips Graduate Institute, along with the regional MFT Consortium, determines if the agency and position qualify to fulfill the employment or volunteer placement obligation.

Application Information

The application form and a guide for completing the application will be available September 4, 2013. The application will elicit the student's qualifications and includes four essay questions. Application materials, a list of qualifying schools and names of schools' stipend representatives are available at www.pgi.edu > MFT Consortium > California State Stipend Program. The website includes additional information on the stipend program.

Application Deadline:

October 15, 2013

Applications postmarked after October 15, 2013 will not be accepted. There are no exceptions. Students will be notified via email of the receipt and eligibility of their application.

How will I know if I am selected to receive an MFT stipend?

Applications will be read and scored by stipend awards councils in early November 2013. Members of the awards councils include representatives of mental health agencies, mental health consumers, state and county officials and MFT professionals. Students will be informed during the week of November 18, 2013 if they were selected to receive a stipend by the MFT Stipend Program at Phillips Graduate Institute. Students selected to be awarded a stipend will be required to attend a 2 ½ hour Stipend Orientation Session. Each region will hold an orientation; the date, time and location will be provided in the application materials. Failure to attend the orientation or to arrive on time will result in forfeiture of the stipend. The orientation session will review the agreement that recipients need to sign and will explain the recipients' obligation to secure employment in a qualifying mental health agency.

The Objectives of the MFT Stipend Program

1. To recruit MFT students with the capacity to serve the culturally diverse needs of persons in mental health care especially in underserved communities
2. To recruit MFT students who are in recovery of serious mental illness and have experienced public mental health care as clients or family members of clients
3. To recruit MFT students who are trained in the delivery of recovery-oriented mental health services and have received instruction by those recovering from mental illness
4. To recruit MFT students who are community-oriented with career plans to practice in public mental health as an MFT intern and licensed MFT professional

How do I know if I'm a good candidate for the MFT stipend?

Students who are interested in community service and are able to meet one or more of the objectives of the MFT Stipend Program are encouraged to apply. Students need to consult with their faculty advisor or their school's stipend representative. Students are required to receive course instruction on the values and principles of the Mental Health Services Act and receive instruction by individuals with the lived experience of mental illness stigma and experience in the public mental health system.

The level of students' qualifications will be based on the extent to which students convey in the application their training and experiences in the following categories:

1. *Public mental health service.* Student has practicum training, employment or volunteer experience in a county's public mental health delivery system.
2. *Public mental health preparation.* Student has academic knowledge and clinical competence in providing services to the population served by the public mental health system, in trauma assessment and treatment, in evidence-based practices and in providing recovery-directed care.
3. *Second Language capacity.* Student has the capacity to provide mental health services in a second language identified as a threshold language for that region. The State defines "threshold language" as the primary language, other than English, for a high percentage of the population in a geographic region.
4. *Bicultural/Multicultural capacity.* Student has personal and/or employment experience in communities of diverse cultures, social economic statuses and geographical settings.
5. *Community service orientation.* Student has personal, employment and/or volunteer experience which conveys a high degree of commitment towards community service, especially in low-income and socially disadvantaged areas.
6. *Personal experience with public mental health.* Student has personal experience with mental health stigma, serious mental illness and the use of public mental health care.
7. *Career in public mental health service.* Student conveys a commitment to public mental health service as a professional which is evident by practicum training in or prior employment at a public mental health agency and by articulating specific career goals in public mental health service.

MFT Consortium of California

MFT Stipend Program – 818.654.1702

mftconsortium@pgi.edu

Director, José Luis Flores, MA jlflores@pgi.edu

Coordinator, Lisa Wolfe, MS lwolfe@pgi.edu

