The MFT Consortium of California, representing the academic institutions with graduate programs in marriage and family therapy, will be awarding 110 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.

$18,500 will be awarded to MFT students who want to pursue a career in public mental health practice and are trained in the delivery of mental health care as directed by the Mental Health Services Act.

Application deadline is October 8, 2014

Application materials will be available on August 20, 2014 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.
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 (MHSA) in addressing the statewide workforce need for mental health practitioners in underserved communities.

Who is eligible to apply for the 2014-15 MFT Stipend Program?
Students that meet all of the following requirements are eligible to apply:

1) Students who have or will have field placement training (practicum) at an agency that is operated or contracted by a county mental health/behavioral health department.
2) Student who will complete their degree between September 1, 2014 and August 31, 2015. Degree completion refers to the conferral date posted on official transcripts.
3) Students who will complete their degree from an academic institution that is an active member of a regional MFT Consortium (see “Qualifying Schools” at www.pgi.edu).
4) Students who will qualify to register as an MFT Intern with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences upon graduation.
5) Students who will 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 or behavioral 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 will be available on August 20, 2014. The application will elicit the student’s qualifications and includes four essay questions. Application materials, qualifying schools/campuses, and the schools’ stipend representatives are available at www.pgi.edu MFT Consortium>California State Stipend Program.

Application Deadline:
October 8, 2014
Applications postmarked after October 8, 2014 will not be accepted. There are no exceptions. Students will be notified via email of 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 a Stipend Awards Council in early November 2014. Members of the Stipend 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 17, 2014 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 2½ hour Stipend Orientation Session in the region awarded. Failure to attend the orientation may result in forfeiture of the stipend. The orientation session will review the Stipend Agreement 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
5. To recruit MFT students who are committed to provide clinical services as a stipend recipient in a county designated by the state as County of Need.

How do I know if I’m a good candidate for the MFT stipend?
Students who meet all eligibility requirements, will complete their field placement training at an agency affiliated with a county mental health/behavioral health department, are interested in a career in community service, and 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 school’s stipend representative to determine eligibility and review the student’s qualifications.

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.** In addition to the student’s field placement training, the student also has a separate employment or volunteer experience in a county’s mental health or behavioral health delivery system.

2. **Public mental health preparation.** Student has academic knowledge and clinical competence in providing services in trauma assessment and treatment, evidence-based practices, and recovery-directed care to the population served in the public mental health/behavioral health delivery system. Students receive course instruction on the values and principles of the MHSA and receive instruction by individuals with the lived experience in the public mental health system and mental illness stigma.

3. **Bicultural/Multicultural capacity.** Student has personal and/or employment experience in communities of diverse cultures, social economic statuses and geographical settings.

4. **Second Language capacity.** Student has the capacity to provide clinical 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.

5. **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.

6. **Career in public mental health service.** Student conveys a commitment to public mental health service as a professional by articulating specific career plans.

7. **Career in public mental health service in a county designated as a “County of Need”.** Student conveys a commitment in their career plans to serve a County of Need, noted in italics on map.
Regional Distribution of Stipends

Counties of Need in italics

MFT Consortium Of Greater Sacramento
Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras,
El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento,
San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Sonoma,
Sutter, Yolo, Yuba
14 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium Of The Central Coast
San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Ventura
8 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium Of The Bay Area
Alameda, Contra Costa, Humboldt, Marin, Napa,
Monterey, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara,
Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma, San Benito
24 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium Of The Central Valley
Fresno, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Madera,
Mariposa, Merced, Mono, San Joaquin,
Stanislaus, Tulare, Tuolumne
14 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium Of Greater Los Angeles
Los Angeles
22 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium Of Orange County
Orange County
12 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium of San Diego and Imperial Counties
Imperial, San Diego
8 stipends awarded

MFT Consortium of California
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