

2015-16 MFT Educational Stipend Program

\$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 7, 2015*

Application materials will be available on August 19, 2015 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 111 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 MFT Stipend Program is one of several incentive programs funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) 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 MHSA in addressing the statewide workforce need for mental health practitioners in underserved communities.

Who is eligible to apply for the 2015-16 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 or behavioral health department.
- 2) Student complete their degree between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. 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 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 to 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. In addition, recipients selected to provide clinic services in a *County of Need* must search for paid employment or volunteer placement at a mental health service agency operated by or affiliated with the *County of Need* they indicated on their application. The qualifying position must 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 2015-16 MFT Stipend Program application materials and qualifying MFT schools/campuses will available at www.pgi.edu *MFT Consortium > California State Stipend Program* on August 19. The application form elicits the student's qualifications and includes essay questions.

Application Deadline:

October 7, 2015

Applications postmarked after October 7, 2015 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 2015. Council members include local representatives of mental health agencies, mental health consumers, state and county officials and MFT professionals. The MFT Stipend Program at Phillips Graduate Institute will notify students via email of their award status by November 20, 2015. 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 may result in forfeiture of the stipend. During the orientation recipients will review and sign the Stipend Agreement that details their twelve month employment obligation 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?

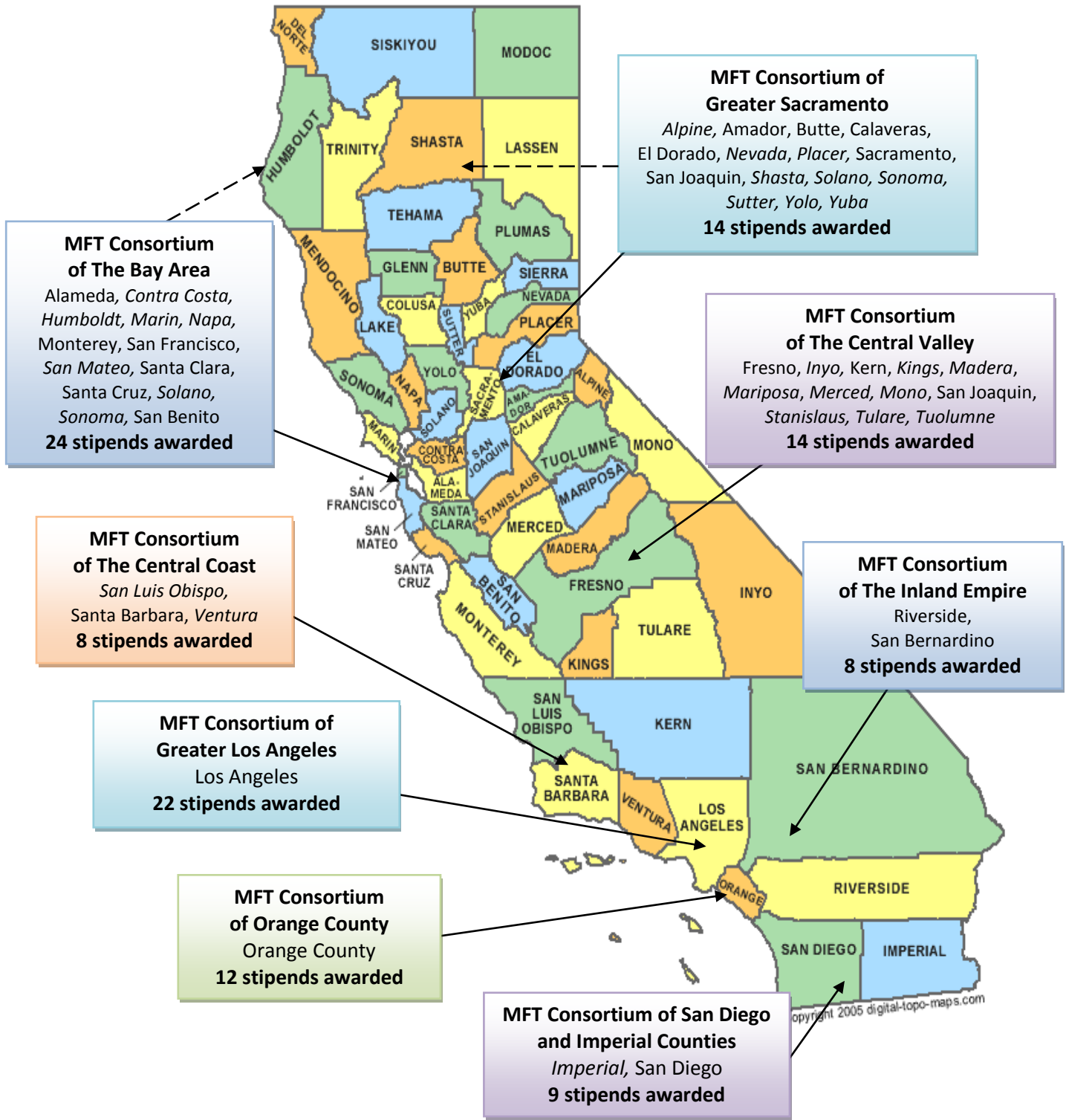
Students who meet all eligibility requirements, will complete their field placement training at an agency affiliated with a county mental health/behavioral health department, are interested in a career in community service, and meet one or more of the objectives of the MFT Stipend Program are encouraged 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 field placement training, additional employment or volunteer experience in a county's mental health or behavioral health delivery system.
2. *Public mental health preparation.* 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. Course instruction on the values and principles of the MHSA and instruction by individuals with the lived experience in the public mental health system and mental illness stigma.
3. *Bicultural/Multicultural capacity.* Personal and/or employment experience in communities of diverse cultures, social economic statuses and geographical settings.
4. *Second Language capacity.* 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.* Personal experience with mental health stigma, serious mental illness and the use of public mental health care.
6. *Career in public mental health service.* 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".* Career plans include a commitment to be employed or volunteer as an MFT intern with an agency located in a State designated *County of Need*, noted in italics on map.

Regional Distribution of Stipends

Counties of Need in italics



MFT Consortium of California
MFT Stipend Program – 818.654.1702
mftconsortium@pgi.edu