



LACDMH MFT STIPEND PROGRAM INFORMATION 2019-20

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) has announced that it will be awarding educational stipends to MFT students for the 2019-20 academic year. The goal of the LA County DMH Stipend Program is to increase the public mental health workforce with qualified individuals committed to providing services in high priority areas. The Greater Los Angeles Consortium of MFT Educators and Clinical Directors (MFT Consortium) coordinates the MFT Stipend Program under the administration of Phillips Graduate University, Chatsworth, CA.

Stipend Objectives

1. To recruit graduate students who have linguistic capacity to provide services in one of the threshold languages in areas identified as high need. The threshold languages include Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Farsi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, and additional Chinese dialects.
2. To recruit graduate students who have cultural competency and the capacity to provide culturally appropriate and sensitive services to consumers in areas identified as high need.
3. To recruit graduate students who would be employed in geographic areas and service programs the County has designated as a workforce priority. The geographic areas include SPA 1 (Antelope Valley), SPA 4 (Downtown Los Angeles), SPA 6 (South Los Angeles), and SPA 7 (East Los Angeles). The service programs include those funded through the Mental Health Services Act and Katie A.
4. To recruit graduate students who have prior experience in the mental health delivery system of the LACDMH through previous or current employment or through practicum (traineeship) training.
5. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to veterans, either through practicum (traineeship) training or through curriculum specialization.
6. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to older adults, either through practicum (traineeship) training or through curriculum specialization.
7. To recruit graduate students who have prior training or experience with public mental health services provided to the homeless population, either through practicum (traineeship) training or through curriculum specialization.

Stipend Amount and Commitment

LACDMH will be awarding up to 70 educational stipends of \$18,500 to eligible graduates. Stipend recipients will need to be employed full time for one year as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist in a public mental health agency, either directly operated by or contracted with LACDMH.

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Eligibility for LACDMH Stipends

Students in the last year of pursuing their graduate degree who will be graduating between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, may be eligible for these stipends. In addition, students need to meet the following criteria:

- Must be in a regionally accredited school
- The regionally accredited school must be an active member of the MFT Consortium
- Must pass a criminal record background check (Live Scan will be required when applying for employment.)
- Must be able to legally work in the United States
- Must be willing to commit to one year of full-time employment at a DMH funded agency after graduation
- Must be eligible to register as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist upon graduation

Recruitment of Eligible Students

Students will be recruited from the MFT schools that participate in the Greater Los Angeles Consortium of MFT Educators and Clinical Directors (MFT Consortium). LACDMH has partnered with the MFT Consortium in addressing the County's shortage of qualified mental health practitioners capable of providing culturally and linguistically competent services in certain geographic areas, or specialized treatment programs, or in programs serving older adults, veterans and the homeless. Administration of the stipend program on behalf of this partnership is provided by Phillips Graduate University in Chatsworth, CA.

Application Requirements

Only students recommended by their MFT academic programs will be considered for the LACDMH Stipend Program. Schools will only recommend students that meet the eligibility requirements listed above. Applications received from students not in their school's recommended list will not be eligible.

- Notify your academic representative of your interest in applying to the LACDMH MFT Stipend Program. For a list of school stipend representatives go to <https://phillips.campbellsville.edu> under the MFT Consortium link "Qualifying Schools for the LA County DMH MFT Stipend Program 2019-20".
- Complete the *LACDMH MFT Stipend Application 2019-20*. The application will be available September 11, 2019 at <https://phillips.campbellsville.edu> under the MFT Consortium link. Print the application, fill it out legibly, and sign. Make sure that you fully and accurately complete the applicant identifying information, that you have selected your qualifying criteria, and have checked the geographic service area and program area of employment preferences.
- Complete the four essays. Your responses need to be brief (limited to 150 words per essay) yet informative enough to convey the strengths you bring to public mental health practice. Your responses should also support the qualities you identified in the "Selection of Qualifying Criteria." Do not include other material such as a résumé or letter of recommendation.
- Complete the *W-9 Federal Tax Form*. Make sure you include your address and social security number and that you have signed the form. Note that the stipend check will be mailed to the address in this form. Only the first page of the W-9 document needs to be returned with your completed application. The W-9 form may be downloaded from Phillips Graduate University's web site under MFT Consortium.
- Mail together the completed application, essay responses and the first page of the W-9 document by October 23, 2019 to the following: Phillips Graduate University, Los Angeles County MFT Stipend Program, 19900 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311.

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Ineligible Applications

Applications submitted late (postmarked after October 23, 2019) will not be eligible nor will applications that are submitted incomplete or with an incomplete W-9 form. In addition, applications from students that are not recommended by the school's stipend representative will not be eligible.

Notification of Application Received

Applications will be reviewed to ensure that all required items are complete, and applicants will be notified by October 28, 2019 that their application was received and whether they qualify. Applicants' qualifications will be based only on the information provided in the application. Changes, corrections or additions to submitted applications cannot be made after the deadline.

Notification of Stipend Selection

Qualifying applications will be considered by the LACDMH for stipend selection. Members of the Review Panel who read and score the applications consist of county representatives and professionals from mental health agencies. School representatives or personnel of Phillips Graduate University do not participate in the Review Panel. The LACDMH selects stipend recipients based on the scores. Applicants selected for a stipend will be notified via email by November 9, 2019. Communication with applicants will be through the personal email address provided in the Applicant Identifying Information.

LACDMH Stipend Orientation/Contract Signing Session

Applicants selected to receive a stipend must attend the Stipend Orientation Session conducted by LACDMH. The Stipend Orientation Session will be held at Phillips Graduate University in Chatsworth, CA on November 19, 2019 from 9:00am to Noon. **Attendance at the Stipend Orientation Session is required.** Late arrival may disqualify the student from receiving the stipend. The *LACDMH Stipend Contract* will be distributed and signed during the Stipend Orientation Session. The contract is an agreement between LACDMH and the student and outlines the responsibilities of each party. The contract also outlines options for stipend repayment if the stipend recipient does not graduate by June 30, 2020, does not obtain employment in a qualifying DMH agency, or does not complete one-year employment in a qualifying DMH agency.

Distribution of Stipend Amount

The stipend checks will be dispensed to student-awardees through Phillips Graduate University within 90 days of the Stipend Orientation Session when all students have signed the stipend contract. Student-awardees will be notified when the transfer of funds from the County to Phillips Graduate University occurs and when stipend checks will be issued.

Verification of Employment

Students awarded a stipend will need to verify obtaining employment in a DMH, or DMH contracted agency in compliance with the contract agreement. To verify employment, an administrator of that agency will need to complete the *Employment Verification Form (EVF)*. The form will verify that the agency is a DMH contracted facility and that the stipend recipient has been employed as a mental health provider. The completed EVF needs to be mailed to Phillips Graduate University. Copies of the EVF will be available to the students that have been awarded a stipend and have signed the *LACDMH Stipend Contract*.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: October 23, 2019

Mail application, essays and W-9 form to Phillips Graduate University,
LA County MFT Stipend Program, 19900 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311