



**SOUTHERN MINNESOTA BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK - MSW PROGRAM
Minnesota State University, Mankato**



2019 Stipend Application

PURPOSE

The purpose of the *Southern Minnesota Rural Behavioral Health Initiative* is to build the behavioral health workforce in southern Minnesota with an emphasis on social work practice in integrated behavioral health care settings. Minnesota State University, Mankato received a \$399,900 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to fund this initiative.

Selected students receive specialized practicum experiences, financial stipends, and additional professional development opportunities. The stipend award is \$10,000.00 per student (payable in the spring and summer semesters while the student is in field). All awards are contingent on continued federal funding and an annual grant renewal process. Should federal funding become unavailable or should the grant not be renewed, neither MNSU nor the Department of Social Work is responsible for continued funding.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications are reviewed by the MSW Director of Field Education, the Chair of the Department of Social Work, and the Project Coordinator. Applicants are notified of the decision in writing within four weeks of the application deadline. Stipend recipients will be selected using the following criteria:

1. Submission of all application material.
2. Completion of an on-campus interview with the aforementioned review committee.
3. Successful applicants will have the commitment and ability to be educated in and employed in a clinical practice setting.
4. Past professional or volunteer experience working in an integrated care setting.
5. Commitment to practice in an integrated care setting after graduating from the MSW program.
6. Commitment to practice in a rural or underserved geographic area after graduating from the MSW program.

EXPECTATIONS

Selected applicants will be expected to:

- Work closely with the MSW Field Director in identifying a practicum site that fulfills the requirements of the grant and the MSW Program.
- Attend and participate in all meetings, seminars, and trainings that are part of the Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health Initiative.
- Upon graduation, explore employment opportunities in the behavioral health field – particularly those opportunities in integrated care settings – that are located in rural or geographically underserved regions.
- Participate in all evaluation requirements of the Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health

Initiative.

PURPOSE OF THE STIPEND

Financing a MSW education can be expensive. Students are expected to balance a full-time academic course load, complete a 500-hour field practicum, and still find time to balance other family and work responsibilities. The purpose of this stipend is to reduce the financial burden placed on students so that they can focus on their academic preparation. The stipend should allow students to reduce other work obligations and instead prioritize their MSW education. As a stipend recipient, students are expected to prioritize and fully engage in their education and look for opportunities to grow professionally.

MNSU Department of Social Work - MSW Program
Southern Minnesota Rural Behavioral Health Initiative Application

Name

Tech I.D.

Address

City, State, Zip

I. Employment and/or Volunteer Experience Information

Please attach a **resume** reflecting your professional and volunteer experience

II. Essay

Please respond to each question. Your essay must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than three pages. Attach your essay to this application.

1. Discuss your interest in, and commitment to, clinical practice in integrated behavioral health care settings. Provide examples from your past work, volunteer and/or academic experiences.
2. Describe your professional and career goals and how participation in this Initiative will assist you to achieve these goals.
3. Describe your commitment to clinical social work practice, particularly in integrated care settings, in an underserved or rural geographic area. Illustrate this commitment with examples from your own experiences.

III. Letter of Recommendation

Provide a letter of recommendation from a current or past employer who can speak to your direct practice skills and experience; your interest in behavioral health practice; your preparation for advanced clinical practice; and your interest in working in an integrated system of care.

III. Statement of Commitment

Sign and return the attached Statement of Commitment confirming that if selected for the Initiative, you agree to abide by the expectations of the program.

Submit the application, resume, essay, and Statement of Commitment to:

Minnesota State University, Mankato
MSW Program
David Beimers, Chair, Department of Social Work
Trafton North 358
Mankato MN 56001

The applications must be received by **June 7, 2019**.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

I certify that if I am awarded Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health Initiative stipend, I will commit to the following in exchange for receipt of the stipend:

- *I commit to complete a field placement or internship working in an integrated care setting;*
- *I commit to maintain my good standing in the MSW Social Work program and the College of Graduate Studies;*
- *I commit to attend all required workshops, seminars, and meetings associated with the Initiative;*
- *I commit to participating in all evaluation components of this initiative.*

Further, after I graduate with my MSW I am committed to exploring employment opportunities in integrated behavioral health care settings in an underserved or rural geographic area.

Signature/Date

Printed Name