



State of Florida
Department of Children and Families

Rick Scott
Governor

Mike Carroll
Secretary

DATE: September 19, 2016

TO: Regional Managing Directors
Community-Based Care Lead Agency CEOs

THROUGH: David L. Fairbanks, Deputy Secretary *DLF*

FROM: JoShonda Guerrier, Assistant Secretary for Child Welfare *JSG*
Vicki Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Operations *VA*

SUBJECT: Notification of the Title IV-E Educational Student Stipend Program Closure

PURPOSE: The purpose of this memorandum is to provide notification that the Title IV-E Educational Student Stipend Program will end effective December 17, 2016. This action is necessary due to a reduction in the federal match and the unavailability of \$2.1 million in general revenue funds to continue the program.

BACKGROUND: In 2015, the Department sought approval to use Title IV-E funding to implement a student stipend program. Implementation of this program supported Department initiatives to recruit and train Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) and Master of Social Work (MSW) child welfare professionals. Proviso language in the 2015 General Appropriations Act (Line item 316) designated the University of Central Florida as the lead university to coordinate the efforts of the program with the Department. Using the 2015 legislative appropriation, the Department contracted with the University of Central Florida to administer the program statewide.

Since implementation, the universities have awarded approximately 175 stipends to students enrolled in BSW or MSW programs. Students who received the stipend funds are obligated to fulfill their contractual requirements to work as a child protective investigator (CPI) or dependency case manager (DCM) for one year per stipend award. These students took specialized courses that will allow them to begin employment without the requirement to complete pre-service core training. The Department will compile a master list of all applicable students and begin tracking their graduation and post-graduation work obligation. This list will also be provided to the regions and the Florida Certification Board to document approval that pre-service core training be waived.

ACTION REQUESTED: This action does not affect field placements or internships and you should continue collaborating with local universities for the recruitment of skilled child welfare professionals. Please share this memorandum with your regional recruiters, CPI supervisors case management organizations and service providers.

CONTACT INFORMATION: For additional information, please contact Joanna Waldron, Office of Child Welfare at 850-717-4693 or Joanna.Waldron@myflfamilies.com.

cc: Florida Certification Board
Center for Child Welfare

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