**Title IV-E Child Welfare Stipend Program (CWSP)**

**Selection Process and Criteria:**

1. **Application process (timing, forms, steps, informational meetings)**

Applicants must complete and submit the Child Welfare Stipend application, to include the writing sample and three letters of reference, two of which are to be professional references by **February 28, 2017.** BSW students are required to have an overall GPA of 2.7 in Social Work classes. MSW’s must enter with and maintain a 3.0 GPA.

1. **Screening and selection process (timing, forms, steps, informational meetings) and criteria:**

A committee consisting of Radford University faculty and staff as well as directors and supervisors from local Department of Social Services will meet to review the applications and make recommendations to the State Child Welfare Stipend Program Coordinator as to which applicants should be interviewed. Each selected student is then interviewed by the committee (either in-person or via video-conference). Once applications are rated and students are interviewed – decisions are made regarding award recommendations.

1. **Mechanisms for notifying students:**

The Child Welfare Stipend Program University Coordinator will inform each student in writing regarding the award decision. Students who are offered a stipend will be sent a copy of the Student Recipient Contract to be notarized and returned. Once the notarized contract is received, the financial aid office will be provided with the name and student identification number of each stipend recipient and the amount of each award (approximately $10,000 for two semesters).

**CHILD WELFARE STIPEND APPLICATION**

**RADFORD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK**

**Master of Social Work 2017-18**

Student ID#\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Standard Program \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Advanced Standing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you received a Child Welfare stipend previously? Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you taken the Child Welfare elective (680)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation from School of Social Work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity/race (optional) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gender Identification (optional) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been charged and/or convicted of child abuse, neglect or molestation, or had the charge taken under advisement or dropped due to an agreement with the prosecutor’s office?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please explain (attach additional pages, if needed) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Writing Sample**

Choose four (4) of the following questions. Attach your responses on separate sheets. Responses should be no longer than one (1) page each. Responses will be judged by content and writing skills, so be thorough yet concise.

1. What is there about working with children and families that captures your interest?
2. What are your long-term career goals (5-10 years)?
3. What makes you a good investment for the State of Virginia in the field of Public Child Welfare?
4. What is your experience in child welfare, as a volunteer, student, employee, etc.?
5. What are your major personal strengths and areas where growth is needed?
6. What causes you the most stress or anxiety? How do you relieve or deal with stress?
7. With what types of people do you have difficulty working with, and why?
8. Do you have any geographical restrictions regarding where you can work? If so, explain.

**FOR YOUR INFORMATION:**

* Students must have a valid driver’s license and a good driving record in order to be placed with and/or hired by the Department of Social Services (DSS).
* DSS will conduct a criminal background check/Child Protective Services background check prior to placement/employment.
* Interviews are required in order to clarify information provided on the application and/or to make decisions about awarding the stipend.
* Students must submit three references; at least two from professionals, preferably one from someone who has supervised the student in some capacity.
* Students who plan to continue on into the Master’s program and choose to apply for a second stipend: we will evaluate your first internship by interviewing your field liaison and agency supervisor to ascertain your compatibility with the culture of DSS.
* **Acceptance of this stipend may affect any other financial aid that your receive. Be sure to discuss this with a financial aid advisor.**
* Once award decisions are made you will be notified in writing. If you choose to accept a stipend you are required to sign and have notarized a student contractual agreement.

Please return this application by **February 28, 2017** to: Erica Thornton, MSW

Child Welfare Stipend Coordinator

School of Social Work

Waldron 229

Radford University

Box 6958

Radford, VA 24142

\*Revised 2/6/17