

community members from local child welfare agencies, and the Title IV-E Project Coordinator. The selection committee will make a final decision based on your application and interview.

Applications can be picked up and submitted in person in the Department of Social Work in the Mary Taylor House room 101 or they can be accessed from our Web site at: plymouth.edu/socwork/docs/Child_Welfare_Scholarship_Application.pdf

Department of Social Work, MSC 57
Plymouth State University
17 High Street
Plymouth, NH 03264-1595

Phone: (603) 535-2703
Fax: (603) 535-2854
plymouth.edu/socwork/

The preparation of this brochure was financed under a Contract with the State of New Hampshire, Department of Health and Human Services, Division for Children, Youth and Families, with funds provided in part by the State of New Hampshire and the United States Department of Health and Human Services.



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CHILD WELFARE (IV-E) EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY

Preparing Undergraduate Students for Careers in Child Welfare

CHILD WELFARE (IV–E) EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Why consider the BSW Program at PSU?

The mission of the Bachelor of Science in Social Work (BSW) program at Plymouth State University is to prepare students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for entry-level generalist practice. PSU has offered the BSW degree since 1983 and has been accredited by the Council on Social Work Education since 1995. We have an excellent, committed faculty, engaged group of students within the major, and a unique set of options in the curriculum. Students can decide to focus their studies on any one of the five degree options: child and family services, aging services, health services, mental health services, or a Spanish language option.

Additionally, our BSW program has a Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership with the New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), which provides educational partnerships for our students.

Why consider a career in child welfare?

Need: Child welfare agencies throughout the country need to recruit and retain competent child welfare staff to carry out their programs. They want to ensure that their workforce has the essential training needed for this work and actively seek strategies to bring new workers into their agencies.

—Zlotnik, J. L. (2009),
Social Work and Child Welfare: A National Debate.



To meet this need, the Division for Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) “manages protective programs on behalf of New Hampshire’s children, youth and their families. DCYF staff provides a wide range of family-centered services with the goal of meeting a parent’s and a child’s needs and strengthening the family system. Services are designed to support families and children in their own homes and communities whenever possible.”

—Department of Health and Human Services, DCYF, (2010).

Support: PSU’s Department of Social Work offers the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership to students who are interested in careers in public child welfare services. This partnership was established in 2000 to provide child welfare education and training to undergraduate students enrolled in the BSW program in preparation for practice in the field. Training and support includes: a 450-hour practicum in a DCYF regional office, DCYF in-service staff training, curriculum development and collaboration, inter-agency collaboration, and support for family-centered services.

What is the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Partnership?

Title IV–E is entitlement funding created by the Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act. The objectives of this legislation are to improve the quality of care of children in foster care, reduce their numbers, return children to their homes as soon as conditions permit, and facilitate permanency. Specifically, this legislation provides educational and training opportunities to ensure the preparedness and retention of the child welfare workforce so that these objectives can be met. Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnerships have been developed to appropriately prepare a diverse group of social workers for careers with special emphasis on child welfare.

What can PSU’s Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Partnership do for me?

Knowledge, Skills and Values: The Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership will prepare BSW students for the increasingly complex work of child welfare services. Students will develop specialized knowledge, skills, and cultural sensitivity in preparation for practice as public child welfare caseworkers in New Hampshire.

Financial Aid: The Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership provides full in-state tuition assistance for one or two years (Junior and/or Senior) and an annual stipend (minimum \$2,500) for academic fees, books, materials, and other necessities required to complete the program.

Career Opportunities: The Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership will prepare BSW students with the skills, knowledge, and population-specific training necessary to be competitive candidates in the job market and for their subsequent entry into child welfare careers.



What do I have to do to be part of the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Partnership?

Students who are interested in the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership will need to:

- be a full-time social work major with sophomore, junior, or senior standing,
- select Child and Family Services as their degree option,
- be in good academic standing in the major with a grade of C or better in required foundation courses and a minimum GPA of 2.5,
- complete an application.

What are my responsibilities if I receive the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Partnership?

Upon graduation, Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Tuition Partnership recipients will have a service commitment to DCYF for 24 months for each year of support. What this means is that within 2 months of graduation, you must accept employment should it be offered to you or you will be required to pay back the total amount of this support.

How do I apply for the Child Welfare (IV–E) Educational Partnership?

Complete an application and submit it to the Title IV–E project coordinator. After your application is reviewed, an interview with a selection committee will be scheduled. The selection committee may be made up of faculty,