



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND
RECOVERY SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

Marin WET: Vocational/Training/Educational Funds Program

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Program Overview, Policies and Procedures

Program Overview

Marin County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, formerly known as Mental Health and Substance Use Services (MHSUS) has set aside Workforce Education and Training (WET) funds for vocational, training and educational support to residents of Marin County who have lived experience of mental health and/or substance use conditions, or their families, and who wish to join the mental health and substance use services profession.

The goal of the program is to enhance the treatment experience for mental health and substance use clients by promoting the recruitment, hiring and retention of a culturally diverse workforce with lived experience to work in the mental health and substance use service workforce.

Definition of person with lived experience:

1. Someone who has ever received and/or who is currently receiving mental health and/or substance use services. This person is also commonly referred to as a consumer

Or

2. A family member of a consumer who has provided support to her/him before, during and after receiving mental health and/or substance use treatment services.

Criteria

Applications are welcome from anyone who:

- Is 18 years or older
- Works or lives in Marin
- Has lived experience
- Would like to pursue a vocation and/or career in behavioral health peer counseling, drug and alcohol or domestic violence counseling

PG. 2 OF 4 Must be willing to complete an internship experience as determined by the vocational training program

- Can make a minimum commitment of one year of work (either paid or voluntary) in a public mental health and/or substance use service agency in Marin County

Requirements for Scholarship Recipient

Applicants who receive scholarship funds will be required to:

- Enroll in a vocational/training/educational program that she/he has been awarded for within a year of the award date.
- Participate in support opportunities (i.e. meetings with mentors) to ensure that the applicant reduces the risk of dropping out of her/his academic plan.
- Provide information and periodic updates about academic and overall progress in achieving vocational/training/educational goals.
- Submit appropriate receipts and invoices for financial reimbursements
- Upon request, be able to submit any and all documents related to the scholarship award (i.e. proof of enrollment, class attendance records, academic progress reports, etc.)
- Volunteer, intern or work in a public mental health and/or substance use service agency in Marin County for a minimum of one year (internship or volunteer placement support will be available)

Financial Parameters

- Applicants will be given a one-time award per scholarship award cycle.
- Applicants can submit scholarship applications each scholarship award cycle.
- Qualifying expenses include:
 - Registration and/or enrollment and tuition fees
 - Educational supplies (books, pens, papers, etc.)
 - Transportation cost (mileage reimbursement or bus fare)
 - Childcare

Application

Applicants should:

- Fill out attached application, which contains instructions
- Provide one letter of recommendation from someone who can speak to your suitability to work in the field when you complete a peer, drug and alcohol and/or domestic violence counseling program
- Submit completed application and letter of recommendation to:

Cesar Lagleva, Ethnic Services and Training Manager:

- **Drop off or mail** to 20 North San Pedro Road., San Rafael, CA 94903,
- **Fax** to 415-473-7008, or
- **Email signed, scanned copy** to clagleva@marincounty.org.

Award Selection

1. An application committee composed of the Training Manager and scholarship program mentors will review all applications. If necessary, the committee may ask for additional information.
2. Applications deemed suitable for the program will be selected and those applicants will be invited for a thirty (30) minute interview with members of the application committee.
3. Applicant will be interviewed by the application committee.
4. Notification of the application committee's decision will be mailed to all applicants within a week from the date of the interview.

Mentoring

Upon receiving the scholarship award, each scholarship awardee will be assigned to work with a mentor. These mentors have the appropriate experience to provide support to people with lived experience. Awardees and her/his mentor will develop a list of goals and objectives to accomplish while in this relationship to ensure that the awardee is appropriately supported throughout their learning experience until she/he completes the chosen vocational/training/educational program.

Evaluation

Upon or near completion of her/his vocational/training/educational program, the Training Manager will also conduct an exit interview for the purpose of evaluating the students' experience of the program and its mentors, and their plans for employment, additional internship, or volunteering.

