



## Educational Preparation

 Zlotnik, J. L., & Pryce, J. A. (2013). Status of the use of Title IV-E funding in BSW and MSW programs. *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 7(4), 430-446.

### WHAT ARE THESE RESOURCES?

This article addresses the use of Title IV-E funding in both BSW and MSW programs and looks at the social work education programs that collaborate with child welfare agencies to assist in the recruitment and retention of professional child welfare staff.

It provides the results of a study on 94 social work education programs in 31 states and discusses practices and trends that may lead to increased stabilization of the child welfare workforce.

### WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL FINDINGS?

Funding from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, created by the Child Welfare and Adoption Assistance Act of 1980 (PL 96-272), has become an important source of support for educating social workers for child welfare practice. Title IV-E funds provide a 75% federal match for the training (including both short-term training and long-term training at educational institutions, through state grants to the institutions or by direct financial assistance to students enrolled in such institutions) of personnel employed or preparing for employment by the state agency or by the local agency administering the state Title IV-E state plan.

This study gathered data on the use of Title IV-E funding in BSW and MSW programs throughout the nation to update data first collected in 1996. A survey was sent to all social work programs using Title IV-E funding in the previous 3 years for complete educational programs (programs using funding for short-term trainings to workers were not included in the survey). Result highlights are included in the table below:

Snapshot of Title IV-E Program Feedback (2011-2012)

1853 students	Students receiving Title IV-E funds
1144 students	Graduates from the previous 2 years who were currently working in child welfare in fulfillment of their payback requirement
45 schools	Used surveys and questionnaires to follow up with their graduates
803 students in 81 universities (43%)	Working in child welfare while earning their degree
395 students in 55 universities (21%)	Entered the program without child welfare experience
\$1,600 to \$9,500 per semester	Title IV-E funds used for stipends and full tuition, depending on the university and its budget for this type of program.
63 Universities within 25 partnership programs	Title IV-E funding for more than 15 years
(1) Professionalization of the field, (2) coordination/partnership, (3) funding	Most frequently reported positive outcomes of Title IV-E programs

The study highlighted the potential consequences of having no Title IV-E partnership program: lack of future child welfare staff with BSW/MSWs, lack of adequate preparation, and lack of incentive to enter the field. The study also noted that inconsistent policy interpretations, abrupt changes in state administrators, and changes in program size and scope have had impacted school curricula, students' expectations of stipends, and recruitment and retention.

### WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR WORK?

Title IV-E entitlement has made its mark on social work education and the child welfare workforce. Survey findings showed the importance of well-organized and effective partnerships for continued success in implementing Title IV-E educational partnership programs.