



**Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative (WDI)
Student Information Sheet for UW School of Social Work
2023-2024**

Students participating in the Washington State Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative receive a grant that **offsets the costs of a master’s degree** by agreeing to serve in a WDI approved WA state community behavioral health agency or tribal health center following graduation. The Initiative supports master’s level social workers committed to serving individuals and families with mental health and substance use challenges through Community Behavioral Health. CBH is the broad field of mental health and substance use treatment, provided in the community and funded by public sources of support, such as Medicaid. The aim of the initiative is to significantly decrease student debt as well as increase and then retain the number and diversity of exceptionally prepared graduates who work in the community agencies on which our state’s most vulnerable populations depend. UW School of Social Work is one of thirteen schools participating in this initiative across WA State.

IMPORTANT DETAILS REGARDING THE WDI CONDITIONAL GRANT PROGRAM

Requirements of the student:

1. *During School* - Students must select a clinical specialization and then complete their Specialized practicum at a WDI-approved, Medicaid-receiving, community based behavioral health agency/program.
2. *Post-Graduation Service Commitment* – Students must secure a job at a WDI identified agency within two months of graduation and work there for 36 months for students in 2 or 3 year graduate programs and 18 months for students in a 1 year graduate program.
 - a. The student must work at one of the WDI-approved, Medicaid-receiving, CBHAs post-graduation. (It does not have to be with the same agency the student did their practicum and it can be multiple WDI-approved agencies in that employment/service commitment period.)
 - b. Employment time commitment: 1 year of conditional grant funding requires 18 months employment and 2 - 3 years of funding requires 36 months of employment in a WDI approved community based behavioral health agency and program.
3. *If a student cannot fulfill their practicum and/or employment requirements, the student must repay the amount of the grant awarded.*

Financial Awards

1. **The maximum Conditional Grant amount is up to \$51,500 over two years (Day) and three years (EDP), and up to \$25,750 for the one year (Advanced Standing) programs** - Award amounts vary depending on the student’s financial need. The amount of the award is determined during the financial review stage of the application process and will be communicated to the student during the contract review stage before the student commits to the conditional grant.
2. **The financial award is based on a student’s unmet financial need**, which is calculated by the “last dollar-in” FAFSA calculation and student-tuition costs. (WASFA is also accepted for reviewed.) The unmet need is the student’s cost of attendance minus any scholarships and work study.
3. *If a student cannot fulfill the conditional grant requirements, the full grant award must be repaid.*

Additional benefit to participation in the Ballmer Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative

Career Support Network: WDI-State provides resources to students to assess and improve their skills and knowledge to best prepare for a career in community behavioral health. The network consists of five elements: Career-oriented counseling; Professional self-assessment; Individual career development plans; Professional learning forums; and online professional development portal.

APPLYING FOR WDI at UW SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK (SEATTLE)

Ideal students for this program have previous lived and/or professional experience with community behavioral health, a commitment towards working with economically distressed and historically underrepresented communities/populations, and must be committed to practicing in community behavioral health.

Information Sessions (Pre-registration is required. Attendance is not-required but highly encouraged.)

- **January 11, 2023 from 12:00 – 1:00pm:**
https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYoc-GorzsiEtT4z_olGYvrbptagxfmy2Po
- **February 2, 2023 from 6:00 – 7:00pm:**
<https://washington.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMtdeyprDkuGdy-fjY4z5L9escx-opUXlIj>

WDI Eligibility

1. **Demonstrated Financial Need** - as indicated by completion of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) for current academic year.
2. **Applicant of a UW-Seattle MSW Program** - All applicants must have submitted their application for the UW SSW's MSW program prior to submitting their WDI application. Students may apply for either the MSW Day, AS, or EDP programs and committed to studying in one of the Clinical Social Work specializations.
3. **Ability to obtain employment post-graduation** at an [eligible community behavioral health agency in Washington state](#) (see WDI-State's website for list)
4. **Ability to maintain legal residency in Washington State** for at least 3 years post-graduation.

Important note about work authorization –

- In and Out-of-State students with DACA status are welcomed to apply and must complete the WASFA
- International students – please consider the duration and type of visa you hold prior to applying. Most international students will not have guaranteed work authorization after their education visa has expired, in these cases it is not advised to apply.

Application Process and Required Application Materials

1. Attend an Information Session. While not required, it is highly recommended. See above and website for Info Session Information.
2. **By January 4** - Submit your FAFSA at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa> or WASFA at <https://wsac.wa.gov/wasfa>
3. **Starting January 4** - Submit Supplemental Application materials: current resume; letter of recommendation, speaking to your commitment to community behavioral health; and unofficial degree granting transcript to UW SSW website: <https://socialwork.uw.edu/behavioral-health-workforce-development-initiative-wdi>
4. **January 30 – Advanced Standing** All Application materials due. (Supplemental materials to UW/SSW and Application packet to State.) WDI State's Application Portal is scheduled to open mid-January. Application Packets are due 2 weeks after the portal opens. All who have submitted Supplemental Application Materials into UW SSW by the time the State portal opens will receive an email altering them to the Application portal launch and updates to final due date. WDI-State Application portal: <https://waworkforcedevelopment.org/>
5. **February 15 – Day and EDP** All Application materials due (Supplemental materials to UW/SSW and Application packet to State.) WDI State's Application Portal is scheduled to open mid-January. All who have submitted Supplemental Application Materials into UW SSW will receive an email altering them to WDI-State's Application portal launch. WDI-State Application portal: <https://waworkforcedevelopment.org/>

Questions?

- **UW SSW application and program questions** email sswwdi@uw.edu
- **General questions related to WDI State** please see *Behavioral Health Workforce Development Initiative website for additional information, including the list of WDI-approved agencies:*
<https://waworkforcedevelopment.org/>