

# The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI) Massachusetts BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project

## 2012-2013 APPLICATION CHECKLIST

### STEP 1: REVIEW ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Commitment to professional social work practice in a child welfare setting (TWO YEAR commitment upon graduation, if offered an employment position)
- 3.0 or higher overall grade point average
- Evaluated as a “field-ready” BSW student by BSW program in which student is enrolled (Bridgewater State University, Salem State University, or Westfield State University)

### STEP 2: REVIEW DEADLINES FOR APPLICATION MATERIALS

- March 2, 2012** (application) / **March 12, 2012** (endorsement from field coordinator)

### STEP 3: COMPLETE THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- Typed BSW CW Scholars application with signature
- Statement of endorsement from the field education coordinator at your institution (**due March 12, 2012**)
- Submit transcripts to verify current GPA of 3.0 or higher (may be unofficial transcripts)
- Updated resume
- Essay (1-2 pages)  
Please choose ONE of the following DCF Core Values and describe how it can be used in working with the family in the attached case example.
  - Child-driven
  - Family-centered
  - Community-focused
  - Strength-based
  - Committed to Diversity and Cultural Competence
  - Committed to Continuous Learning

**Please do not staple application documents.**

**Application documents should be typed.**

### STEP 4: INTERVIEW WITH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

- MA BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project staff will contact selected students to schedule interviews

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**QUESTIONS: Please contact Dr. Cheryl Springer at (978) 542-6041 / [cspringer@salemstate.edu](mailto:cspringer@salemstate.edu) or Dr. Lisa Johnson at (978) 542-2299 / [ljohnson2@salemstate.edu](mailto:ljohnson2@salemstate.edu)**

**The National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI)  
Massachusetts BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project**

**APPLICATION**

**Application Deadline: March 2, 2012**

The Massachusetts BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project is made possible by funding awarded to Salem State University School of Social Work by the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI). NCWWI was established as the result of collaboration among the United States Children’s Bureau, the State University of New York at Albany, and Michigan State University School of Social Work. As a recipient of NCWWI funding, Salem State University has partnered with Bridgewater State University and Westfield State University to maximize BSW students’ child welfare education, advance child welfare practice, and facilitate interactions among BSW students across different social work projects. Each year of the project, two BSW students from each of the following institutions will be selected as BSW Child Welfare Scholars: Bridgewater State University, Salem State University, and Westfield State University. All students are assigned to field education practica in Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) area offices.

If employment positions are available and offered, recipients of the scholarship are required to make a commitment to work for the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families or a related child welfare agency for two years post graduation. Applications for the BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project will be reviewed by representatives from each participating BSW program, the Massachusetts Child Welfare Institute, and the Department of Children and Families.

**Personal Information**

**Full Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last* *First* *M.I.*

**Social Security #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date of Birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address* *Apt./Unit #*

\_\_\_\_\_ *City* *State* *ZIP Code*

**Home Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Work Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Please indicate which number is best to reach you*

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT RESUME ATTACHED TO APPLICATION**

Current overall GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

**CURRENT TRANSCRIPT ATTACHED**

Name and Phone Number of Academic Advisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates you expect to begin and end your field practicum: Begin \_\_\_\_\_ End \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Graduation Date (month and year) \_\_\_\_\_

Fluency in \_\_\_\_\_ language (other than English)

Will you have access to an automobile during the upcoming academic year? Yes  No

Do you currently have grants, fellowships, or scholarships that cover your tuition and fees? If so, please provide information about the funding.

Do you have previous work or internship experience with DCF? If so, please provide a brief description of your position and job duties.

What personal and/or professional factors influenced your interest in child welfare practice?

I understand that, if offered funding, I will be required to sign an agreement committing myself to complete my social work degree project expeditiously and in keeping with the BSW program's academic, field education and professional standards as well as to the internship policies of the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families. Furthermore, if offered a position, I commit to employment with the Massachusetts Department of Children and Families (DCF) or a related child welfare agency for two consecutive calendar years following graduation. DCF will make every effort to procure employment within the same geographical region as my internship but I am aware this may not always be possible. I also understand that I will be expected to participate in a minimum of three meetings per year with BSW CW Scholars Project students from the other participating institutions (Bridgewater, Salem and Westfield) and enroll in the specified child welfare course at my home institution.

I am also aware that total amount of the stipend being offered is **\$12,000** with the understanding that the portion of funds to cover tuition and fees is paid directly to the school during my senior year.

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Signature of Applicant

Date

**Please return all application materials to:**

Lisa M. Johnson  
Project Coordinator  
School of Social Work  
Salem State University  
352 Lafayette St.  
Salem, MA 01970

ljohnson2@salemstate.edu  
978-542-2299

## Application for Massachusetts BSW Child Welfare Scholars Project

### ESSAY

**Choose ONE of the following DCF Core Values and discuss how it may be applied to interaction with the family in the case situation described below:**

- Child-driven
- Family-centered
- Community-focused
- Strength-based
- Committed to Diversity and Cultural Competence
- Committed to Continuous Learning

Angela (age 18) is a Latina single mother of a two-year-old boy, Sam, and a three-month-old girl, Maria. She dropped out of high school at age 15 when she became pregnant with Sam. Prior to leaving school, Angela had been a straight-A student and had been a talented flute player. Sam's biological father left the state shortly after Sam was born and has no contact with him or Angela.

Angela has had an inconsistent relationship with Maria's biological father, Jason (age 22). A primary source of tension between Angela and Jason is his lack of employment and her perception that he is not trying very hard to find a job. He, like Angela, never completed high school, but does have a GED and is a very good mechanic. Angela dreams about going back to school and getting a good job, but often feels like this is impossible with two young children. Also, she feels she has few job skills, but is very intelligent and has a strong motivation to learn.

Angela was living with her mother, Rosa, but moved out two weeks after Maria was born because she felt Rosa was too judgmental and controlling. At the present time, Angela is living with Jason and his family—his mother, sister, and her two children—in a small house located in a high risk (for crime, health problems, and lack of adequate day care) neighborhood. Jason's mother works part time and helps out with caring for all of the children when Jason's sister is at work and Jason and Angela are job hunting.

Angela has a very loving, nurturing relationship with her children. She reads to them, tells them stories, and sometimes even plays her flute for them. Both Sam and Maria are healthy and typically developing. Angela has utilized social service supports through the Department of Transitional Assistance to help care for the children while she and Jason look for jobs. Angela also has an older sister who sends her money from time to time. Jason dotes on Maria, but does not have much interaction with Sam. When Jason does interact with Sam, he is very harsh and demanding, and often hits Sam for misbehaving. There have been times when Jason has spanked Sam and left a bruise or mark. This, in addition to Angela's frustration with Jason's lack of employment, frequently leads to fights between Angela and Jason. At first the fights were verbal, but they have recently become physical, with both Angela and Jason pushing and hitting the other.

Case example adapted from: Haulotte, S. M., & Kretzschmar, J. A. (Eds.). (2001). *Case scenarios for teaching and learning social work practice*. Alexandria, VA: Council on Social Work Education.

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**STATEMENT OF ENDORSEMENT FROM  
BSW FIELD EDUCATION COORDINATOR**

**Due March 12, 2012**

Student Name:

I confirm that the student named above has completed and submitted the required field application for his/her BSW senior field practicum in a timely manner. The student has met the BSW program requirements and is considered ready to enter into a field education practicum in a DCF area office in fall 2012.

Name of BSW Field Education Coordinator:

Institution:

Date:

**Please return all application materials to:**

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