

Sample
Los Angeles County DMH Stipend Application

To assist you in completing the *LAC DMH Stipend Application* in one sitting, we encourage you to review beforehand the requested fields in the *Application* and prepare your answers and essay responses accordingly. You will not be able to save your entries in the *Application* or revisit it once you submit it. There are three parts to the *Application*.

- All fields are required. The system won't allow you to proceed to the next section until all fields are answered.
- Be sure to provide two different emails to ensure successful communication.
- Note that in past awarding years, applications with incomplete or incorrectly filled fields were disqualified.

Part One – Applicant Information

Information required includes ***full name and address; personal and school email addresses; name of school granting qualifying degree; degree you're completing; and date of degree completion.***

You will also be asked the ***race or ethnicity that best describes you***. There are several choice options including "*Prefer not to answer.*" The county uses this information for data collection purposes; it is not considered as a qualifying entry.

In addition, there are two items that you need to check "Yes" in order for the system to allow you to proceed to the next part of the application:

You need to confirm that ***if you accept the stipend, you will be required to complete one- year employment at either an agency directly operated or contracted by LAC DMH, or you will need to return the stipend funds awarded to you in full.***

And, you need ***to declare that you can work legally in the United States.***

Part Two – Qualifications and Experience

Make sure you read the objectives and goals of the LA County Stipend Program provided on the website that also lists the qualifications and experiences the LA County is seeking from student applicants. To fulfill the objectives of the stipend program, applicants will be scored on a weighted scale according to the extent to which they meet the county's desired qualifications and experiences. Each of the items 1 to 9 will be scored on a 0 to 5 scale based on the information provided.

You may not have the qualifications or experience to check "Yes" in all nine items. That's expected, most applicants don't. It is important that you provide sufficient information on the qualifications or experiences you do have.

Here are the required items in Part Two. If you check "Yes" to any items 1 to 9, you are required to provide the information requested.

1: I have prior or current employment experience at a LA County DMH directly operated or contracted agency. Yes / No

1a: If you answered "Yes", you need to provide the agency name and city.

- This is an employment experience that many student applicants do not have.

Employment in a county, other than LA County, does not qualify.

2: I completed or have current field/practicum training at an LA County DMH directly operated or contracted agency: Yes / No

2a: If you answered “Yes” you need to provide the agency name and city.

- The training agency needs to be in LA County’s Provider Directory, or it does not qualify for this item.

3: I completed or have current field/practicum training at an LA County community site (non-DMH) with significant direct service experience that will translate to provision of services within the DMH delivery system. Yes / No

3a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) describe the client population in that LA County community site and the clinical services you provided.

- Applicants with a non-DMH training site are sought after by the county if the clinical experience they receive prepares them to work serving DMH clients. Your description of the client population you served will convey how prepared you are for providing services within the county’s delivery system.
- Applicants with training experience at a county other than LA County does qualify here.
- Applicants with training experience at a DMH site (item 2) and with a non-DMH site may complete this item as well.

4: Besides English, I can provide clinical services to consumers in one of the threshold languages identified by LA County. Yes / No

- The threshold languages are Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Farsi, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Cantonese, Mandarin, additional Chinese dialects, and American Sign Language. English is not a threshold language.

4a: My threshold language is: _____.

- Don’t enter a foreign language that is not listed as a threshold language.

5: I can provide culturally competent services to consumers living in underserved and/or underrepresented communities. Yes / No

5a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) give examples of the underserved and/or underrepresented communities you competently served.

- Be very specific in naming the communities you have served or have had personal lived or work experience. Avoid providing a list of cultural groups without narrative of your experience with those cultural groups. Given the 50-word limit, consider focusing on one underserved /underrepresented community and expand your experience there.

6: I have experience providing field-based services to consumers. Yes / No

6a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) describe the field-based services you provided and the client population you served.

- Be specific on the field-based services you provided and the clients you served.

General comments on items 7 to 9: Beyond having one or two clients in their caseload, the county is

seeking applicants trained primarily to serve these consumer populations. It is not expected that applicants would have had specialized education and training in serving all these consumer populations.

7: I have experience serving older adults based on my field/practicum training, or educational specialization other than curriculum courses. Yes / No

7a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) describe your experience serving older adults.

8: I have experience serving the unhoused population based on my field/practicum training, or educational specialization other than curriculum courses. Yes / No

8a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) describe your experience serving the unhoused population.

9: I have experience providing services to veterans based on my field/practicum training, or educational specialization other than curriculum courses. Yes / No

9a: If you answered “Yes” you will need to briefly (in 50 words or less) describe your experience serving the veteran population.

Part Three – Essays

The six essays will be scored by mental health professionals familiar with the clientele served within the LA County Department of Mental Health’s delivery system. Each essay will be scored on a 0 to 10 scale based on the information provided.

Each essay response needs to be within 200 words. Text over 200 words will not be considered or included in the scoring. The system will not count or limit the number of words entered to 200 words. Prepare your essay responses prior to completing the *Application* assuring that they are within the allowable number of words.

These are the six essays:

10. Describe your professional interest, commitment, and passion for working within the LAC DMH delivery system.

- Through the stipend program, LA County is seeking student applicants that have a post-graduate desire to practice in public mental health care.

11. Describe your personal background and individual strengths that will help you integrate and apply knowledge to work in public mental health settings.

- Your personal background living or working in diverse cultural communities is considered an asset when serving consumers across the eight LA County SPAs (Service Provider Areas).
- Your experience managing personal struggles or overcoming familial challenges is considered a strength in serving LA County consumers.

12. Describe your work experience that will help you integrate and apply knowledge to work in public mental health settings.

- In contrast to item 11, this essay is an opportunity for you to specifically convey how your clinical work experience prepared you for practice serving the clientele of LA County Department of Mental Health.

13. Describe your clinical experience providing services in-person? Include the settings in which the services were provided.

- Be specific in mentioning the settings where you provided in-person care.

14. Describe your clinical experience providing telehealth services.

- Be specific in mentioning the clients you served via telehealth, the clinical supervision you received via telehealth, and any challenges you had to overcome in providing telehealth services.

15. Describe the importance of service provision within a multidisciplinary team.

- Beyond conveying knowledge of multidisciplinary teams, include your clinical participation in multidisciplinary teams and/or how you envision your discipline working within a multidisciplinary service model.

This is the end of the Application.

After you press "Submit", you will receive notice that your application was entered and will be processed. You may want to copy your completed application before submitting. Consider reviewing your entries by pressing "Prev" before pressing "Submit".

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health,

thank you for your interest in public mental health practice.