CHILD AND FAMILY GUIDANCE CENTER

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK (MSW) INTERNSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW
2027–2028 TRAINING YEAR

AGENCY OVERVIEW

Established in 1962, Child and Family Guidance Center (CFGC) is a nonprofit agency providing mental health services to children and families throughout the San Fernando and Antelope Valleys. Its mission is to empower children and families to achieve health and well-being through innovative mental health services and community programs. The agency offers child- and family-focused services with attention to family and community contexts.

POPULATION SERVED

CFGC serves diverse children, adolescents, young adults, and families, including underserved communities. Clients may experience trauma, anxiety, depression, ADHD, behavioral difficulties, family conflict, and other mental health challenges. Referrals come from schools, community agencies, child welfare and other systems, and families.

ELIGIBILITY AND PLACEMENT LOCATIONS

- Second-year MSW students completing an advanced field placement only.
- University field education eligibility and an appropriate affiliation agreement are required.
- Bilingual English/Spanish skills are preferred.
- CFGC has three placement locations in the San Fernando Valley and one in the Antelope Valley.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

MSW internship opportunities are designed to give students hands-on experience and help them develop clinical skills in a community-based mental health agency. Depending on the placement, interns may provide individual, family, and group therapy, conduct intake assessments, develop treatment plans, provide case management, and consult and collaborate with the treatment team. Interns receive weekly individual and group supervision, attend a weekly MSW seminar and agency-wide trainings, and receive training and practice in Department of Mental Health documentation. Interns may also participate in school-based mental health promotion, community outreach, resource development, staff presentations, and equity and wellness initiatives. Activities span micro, mezzo, and macro social work practice.

LEARNING AND TRAINING MODEL

Weekly placement commitments are 16 or 20 hours, depending on the assigned program and university requirements.

Activity	16-hour placement	20-hour placement
Direct-service productivity	5 hours	6 hours
Individual supervision	1 hour	1 hour
Group supervision	1 hour	1 hour
Social Work Seminar	1 hour	1 hour
Other clinical, documentation, outreach, and learning activities	Remaining hours	Remaining hours
Total weekly commitment	16 hours	20 hours

Supervision is provided by qualified professionals in accordance with agency and university field education requirements. Evening hours until 7 p.m. help accommodate the school and work schedules of the children and families we serve.

INTERNSHIP DURATION

Academic year: first week of September 2027 through first week of May 2028. Exact orientation, start and end dates, holiday arrangements, and total required field hours will be confirmed with each university and the agency.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please email the following information to:

Natalie Casaneda, LSW
Social Work Internship and Staff Development Coordinator
Child and Family Guidance Center
9650 Zelzah Avenue
Northridge, CA 91325
Email: natalie.castaneda@childguidance.org
Direct phone: 818-298-9302
Fax: 818-993-8206

1. A cover letter explaining why you are interested in our MSW internship program and describing your learning goals.
2. A current résumé or curriculum vitae (CV).
3. Two to three letters of reference.

Application procedures follow MSW Consortium timelines. Applications open on January 25, 2027, and close on March 19, 2027.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does CFGC accept first-year MSW students?

No. The program accepts second-year MSW students for advanced field placement.

How many hours per week are required?

16 or 20 hours, depending on the program and university requirements.

Is supervision provided?

Yes. Interns receive one hour of individual supervision and one hour of group supervision each week.

When does the internship run?

From the first week of September through the first week of May.

Are evenings required?

Yes, interns are required to be available until 7 p.m. to accommodate the school and work schedules of the children and families we serve.

Where can I be placed?

We have three locations in the San Fernando Valley and one location in the Antelope Valley.

How do I apply?

In accordance with university policies and procedures, email a cover letter and résumé or CV to Natalie Castaneda, MSW Internship Coordinator, at natalie.castaneda@childguidance.org. Interviews begin in January.