



# BSW/BSSW Certification Program

## What is it?

The Certification Program is for social work majors who intend to work with the children and families served by the Department of Children's Services after graduation. DCS administers this program to better meet the challenges of child welfare by professionalizing its workforce with frontline staff trained in social work.

According to the Child Welfare League of America, a social work-educated workforce is directly linked to better outcomes for children and families and lowers staff turnover in child welfare settings.

The Tennessee Department of Children's Services administers this program to better meet the challenges of child welfare by professionalizing its workforce with frontline staff trained in social work.

## What are the Benefits?

- No Contractual Commitment
- Higher entry level pay
- Child Welfare Case Management Certification

## Apply for the DCS Certification Program!

### To Apply to the Program:

The application process and materials are located on the Title IV-E website. Please carefully read all the information provided on the website:

<http://www.tn.gov/dcs/article/tuition-assistance-programs>

## Application Deadlines:

Fall Semester – June 15.

Spring Semester – November 15.

Failure to fully complete and submit application materials by the deadlines listed could result in disqualification or delays to your admittance to the Program.

## To be Eligible for Participation You Must:

- Be a U.S citizen or, if a qualified alien, provide documentation of their eligibility for work in the U.S. for the duration of their study and their possible employment with DCS.
- Possess a valid driver's license, automobile insurance, and reliable transportation.
- Undergo a background check and fingerprinting.
- Be admitted into an accredited Social Work Program at a participating university.

## DCS Tuition Assistance Program Contact Information:

Department of Children's Services  
Tuition Assistance Programs  
c/o Brittany Greene- Program Specialist  
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