With regard to field placements and employment, students in the University Partnership programs should be in a child welfare agency and performing child welfare duties given the federal mandate, the grant requirements and that this is essentially a child welfare traineeship.

**With regard to agency:**

A child welfare placement in a state administered/public administered child welfare entity would be an appropriate field placement assignment. In some states, with a county-administered public child welfare system, a field placement with that county agency is an appropriate placement. In some states with a tribal child welfare program, a placement with the tribal child welfare agency is an appropriate placement.

The federal government has expanded the agency definition to include a private or voluntary agency that has a contract from the public child welfare agency to provide child welfare services. For example, a foster care placement in a Catholic Charities, or Child and Family Service or Lutheran Social Services agency (a contract agency) that has a contract for such services with the state/county public agency would be an appropriate student field placement.

**With regard to child welfare services:**

Child welfare is defined primarily as child protective services, foster care, or adoption services. Child welfare services can also include group home and residential treatment services. Family preservation services are an appropriate placement if that program is publicly-funded as part of the jurisdiction’s child welfare system. Given the wide scope of definitions and practice settings, child maltreatment prevention services are appropriate only if there is a specific child abuse/neglect program funded by the public child welfare agency (state, county or tribe).

A field placement may include a mix of cases and program services but that mix must include child welfare services funded by a public/tribal agency either directly (by working in a public agency) or indirectly (working in a contract agency).

Typically, school social work and community mental health and health care settings are not appropriate field placements for this University Partnership program.
**With regard to scope of practice:**

A field placement will most often include clinical services and a clinical orientation in the placement and expected competencies. For example, the student will serve in a front-line worker capacity with direct contact with children and families.

A field placement can include administrative and policy services and be primarily and exclusively administrative in nature if addressing child welfare services in a role in a public child welfare agency (state, county or tribal) or contract agency. This includes positions that include or are devoted to evaluation, research, and/or supervision.

**With regard to post-graduation employment:**

The same conditions that apply to an appropriate field placement apply to an appropriate place of employment.

The federal grant does not require that students complete their post-graduation work requirements in any specific geographic location.

Students who receive a traineeship during a BSW program and then enter an MSW program may have their employment requirement deferred until graduating from the MSW program. If a student has a BSW traineeship and then an MSW traineeship, the work requirements from both programs must be satisfied (compounded time not concurrent). If there is only one traineeship, then only one set of requirements need to be satisfied.

If there is a period of time in which there is a hiring freeze or there are no available positions for employment, meeting the post-graduation work requirement can be postponed (not forgiven). The timing for this postponement should be negotiated with each student but not exceed one year. Students are encouraged to make diligent efforts to secure employment and social work programs are encouraged to have partnership relationships with child welfare agencies that promote employment for graduates.

**Other:**

Rotation models of field placement agencies or services are appropriate and must include child welfare services in a public (federal, state, county or tribal) and/or contract agency.

If there are exceptions or special circumstances, these should be presented to and must be approved by the University Partnership program director (Gary Anderson) and the NCWWI director (Nancy Dickinson) and principal investigators (Mary McCarthy and Katharine Briar-Lawson).