We were prepared to begin with fifteen (15) participants at the beginning of the spring semester 2009 at Modesto Junior College (MJC). The pilot group had committed to taking the three (3) necessary courses to achieve their Psychosocial Rehabilitation Skills Recognition Certificate issued by MJC for completing the courses Human Services 142, 143, and 144/145b. These courses totaled nine (9) units.

During this first semester information about the Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Program and the assistance that could be received through the CASRA Program (Program) for students regarding textbook loans, school supplies, bus passes or parking permits, and student fees grew.

By the time the second semester (fall 2009) began, we had more than the expected 15 participants; we had 21 students who were interested in the CASRA Program, although many did not meet the qualifications necessary to be accepted on the Program. We had to purchase additional textbooks to loan because we had 16 students who were eligible for the Human Service 142 course. As funding allowed and enrollment increased we continued to purchase more textbooks.

In 2010 more students wanted to continue on to earn their AA in Human Services so our classes were expanded to include Human Services courses needed towards earning the Associate of Arts Degree at MJC. Many changes were made within the Program to be able to accommodate the increase of qualified applicants. At the beginning of the spring semester the CASRA Program was accommodating:

a) 16 participants enrolled in the Human Service 142 course  
b) 15 participants enrolled in the Human Service 143 course  
c) 8 participants enrolled in the Human Service 144/145 course

Over the next few years the Program made several adjustments towards the needs of the participants/students, using the funding that was available from PROP 63, and staying within the guidelines from MHSA on what the goals of this Workforce, Education and Training (WE&T) project should maintain.

In 2013 we piloted a summer program to see if this would create more opportunities for students to take the PSR courses. It was successful in the Human Services courses needed towards the AA Degree, however, the PSR courses were not set up as successfully on the MJC end.

Eventually Central Region became involved in assisting County employees with textbooks and provided funding for a specific duration of time which provided MJC whatever they needed to get the online classes moving along throughout the entire school year fall to summer. By the time the CASRA Program actually knew they were involved, their three year commitment was about to end.

Once Central Region’s funding process was over, we continue to take County employees who wanted to increase their knowledge by learning PSR and possibly moving on towards the AA in Human Services.

In 2015 our Participant numbers began to change due to the changes being made at MJC. MJC has added another course to work in conjunction with the PSR – Children and Teen/Adolescents the Human Services 146 course.
We are now seeing more online courses being offered at MJC and only every other semester are all three PSR courses offered. We stay consistently in the high 40’s and low 50’s with our Participant count on our Program.

Our Program name was changed to the CASRA Based Stipend Program to minimize confusion for students who believed that if they were on the AA Degree tract for Human Services that they would qualify for the CASRA Program. This helped provide a clear indication that in order to qualify for our Program you must either be enrolled in or have taken the courses necessary for the PSR Program at MJC.

This spring semester 2017 the CASRA Based Stipend Program is accommodating Participants in the following courses; please keep in mind that some of our Participants are taking more than one course through our Program:

a) 5 Participants enrolled in the Human Services 142 course
b) The Human Services 143 course was not offered this semester at MJC
c) 15 Participants enrolled in the Human Services 144/145 courses
d) 8 Participants enrolled in the Human Services 146 course
e) 27 Participants enrolled in various other Human Services, Psychology, and Sociology

We continuously pay attention to our collaborators on what they are doing and saying; in order to adapt our Program as needed. Some ideas we take in and try, others we do not. Everything can be written in stone; but that does not mean that it was written correctly.