

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Overview

Mayra Corral

Lucero Robles, MSW, LCSW

Tuesday, October 10th, 2023

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

- We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work in territories where Indigenous nations and Tribal groups are traditional stewards of the land.
- Please join us in supporting efforts to affirm Tribal sovereignty across what is now known as California and in displaying respect, honor and gratitude for all Indigenous people.

Whose land are you on?

Option 1: Text your zip code to 1-855-917-5263

Option 2: Enter your location at [Native Land CA](#)

- **Option 3: Access Native Land website via QR Code:**





WHAT WE SAY AND HOW WE SAY IT INSPIRES THE HOPE AND BELIEF THAT RECOVERY IS POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE.

AFFIRMING, RESPECTFUL, AND CULTURALLY-INFORMED LANGUAGE PROMOTES EVIDENCE-BASED CARE.

PEOPLE FIRST

Language Matters

in treatment, in conversation, in connection.



Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

It's Health Literacy Month!



HEALTH LITERACY MONTH

Building Awareness Through Action

How are you taking action to build awareness about health literacy?

Share the hashtag **#healthliteracymonth**

healthliteracymonth.org

October
Recognitions

EVERY1 KNOWS SOME1

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

In October, We Also Acknowledge:



**SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION MONTH AND
YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION MONTH**

Partners in Prevention!

SAMHSA
Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist

General Information

UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs

October 10, 2023



Disclosures

None of the presenters, planners, or others in control of content for this educational activity have relevant financial relationships to disclose with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients.

Welcome

Presenters: Lucero Robles, LCSW, Director of Quality Assurance
Mayra Corral, LCSW, Program Manager



Joanna Prabhu



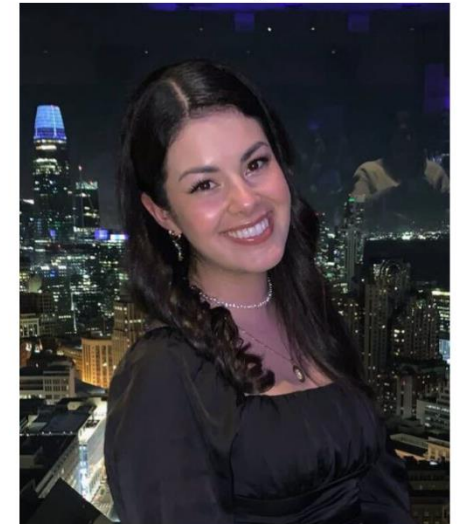
Will Taylor



Gisselle Galloway



Ashley Bailey



Ofelia Ferreyra-Ruiz

Other Program Staff

Tatiana,
Administrative
Assistance

Nivy,
Epidemiologist

Mayra,
Program
Manager

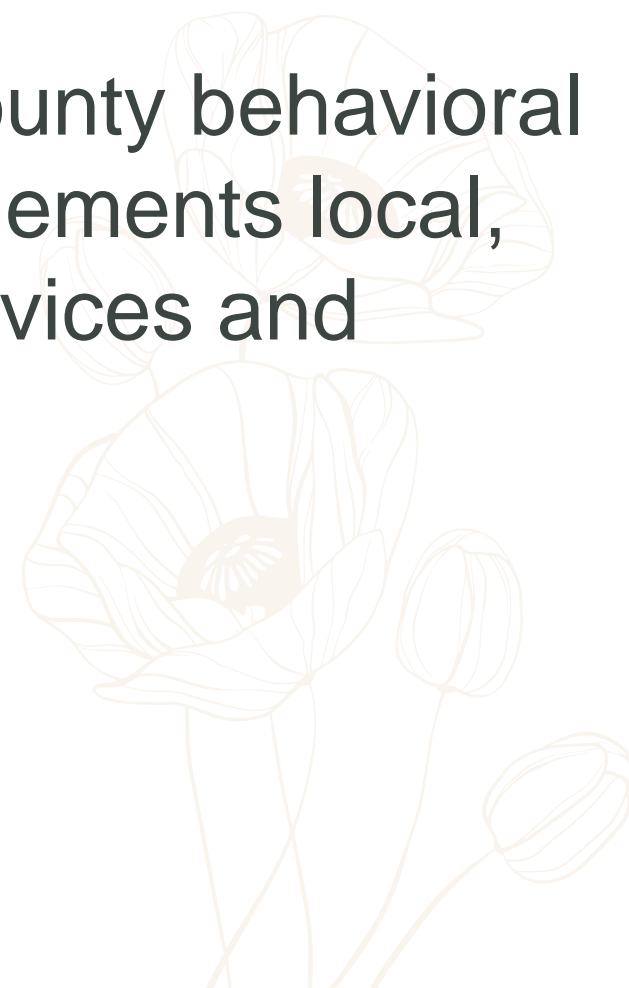
Anna,
Business
Analyst

Peter,
Information
Technology

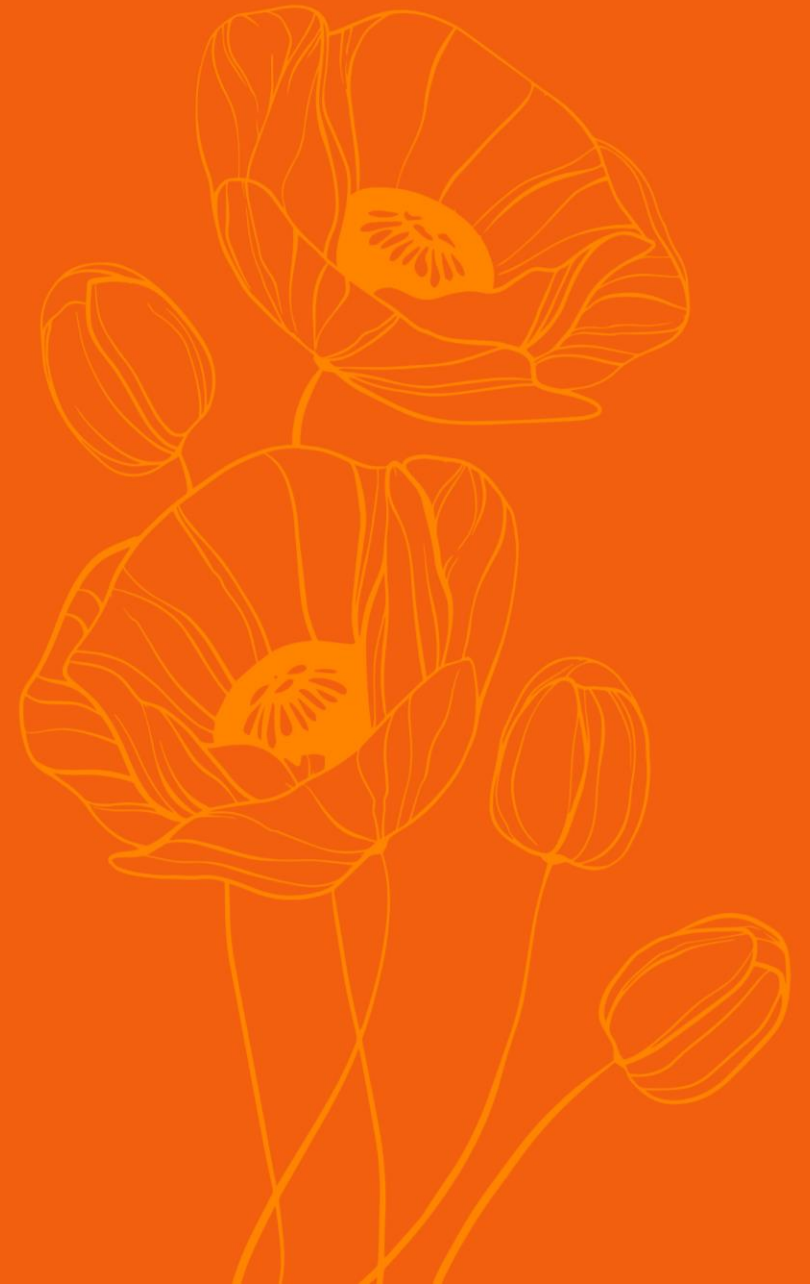
Lucero,
Program
Director

CaMHSa

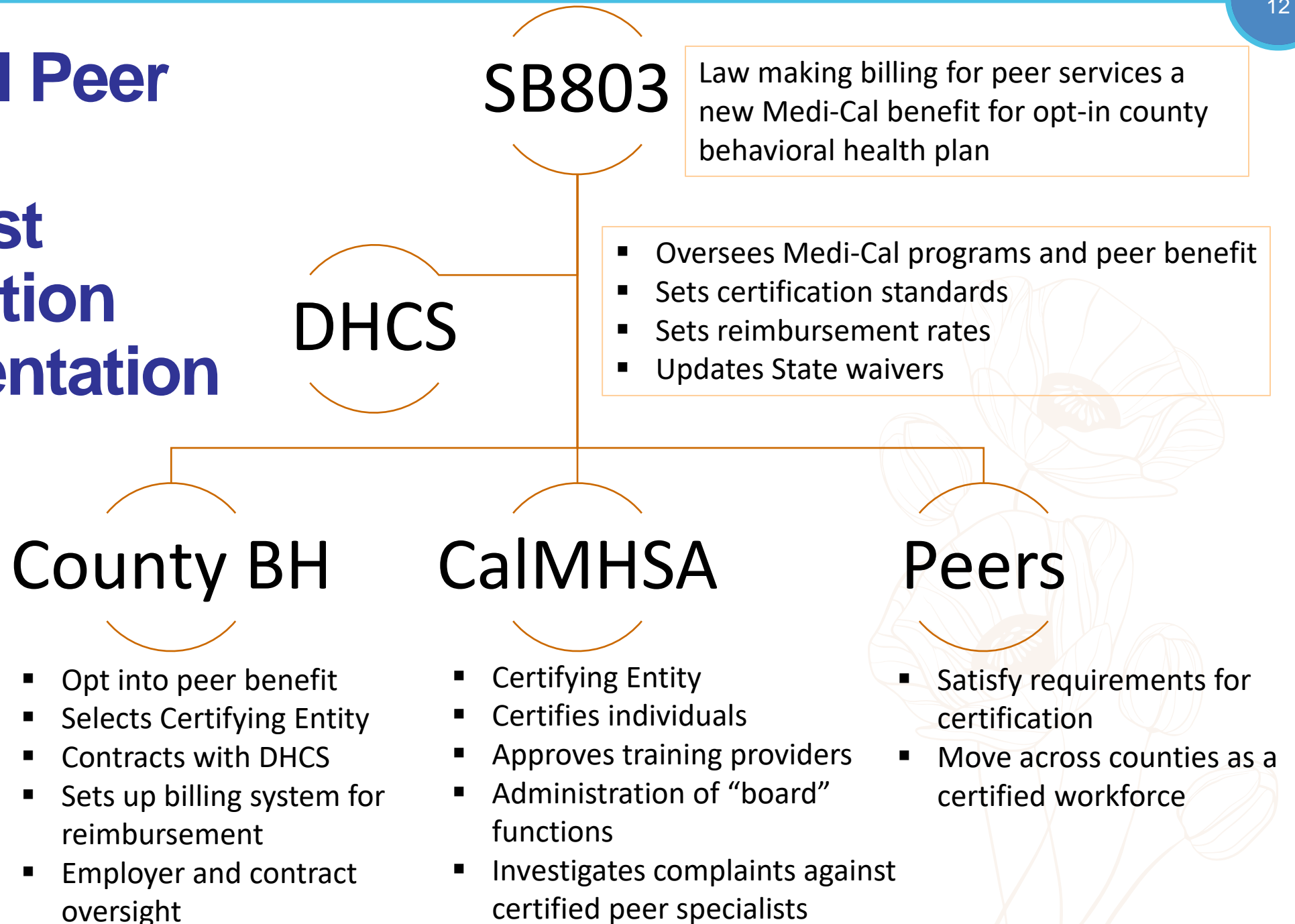
CaMHSa is a Joint Power Authority for county behavioral health plans. CaMHSa develops and implements local, regional, and state-wide mental health services and programs on behalf of its members.



Background



Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Implementation



Certification and Specializations



Certification

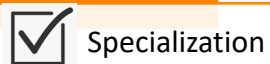
- **Only one certification for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists is offered**
- **Certification is for persons working with individuals in mental health and/or substance use disorders programs**
- **Self-identify as a person having personal lived experience or lived experience as a parent, caregiver, family member in mental health and/or substance use disorders**

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist

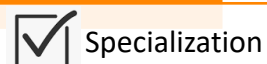
1 Medi-Cal PSS Certification and 4 Specializations

Medi-Cal Peer
Support Specialist
Certification (CMPSS)

Parent, Caregiver,
Family Member
Peer



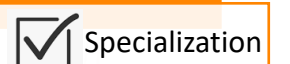
Working with
Persons -
Unhoused



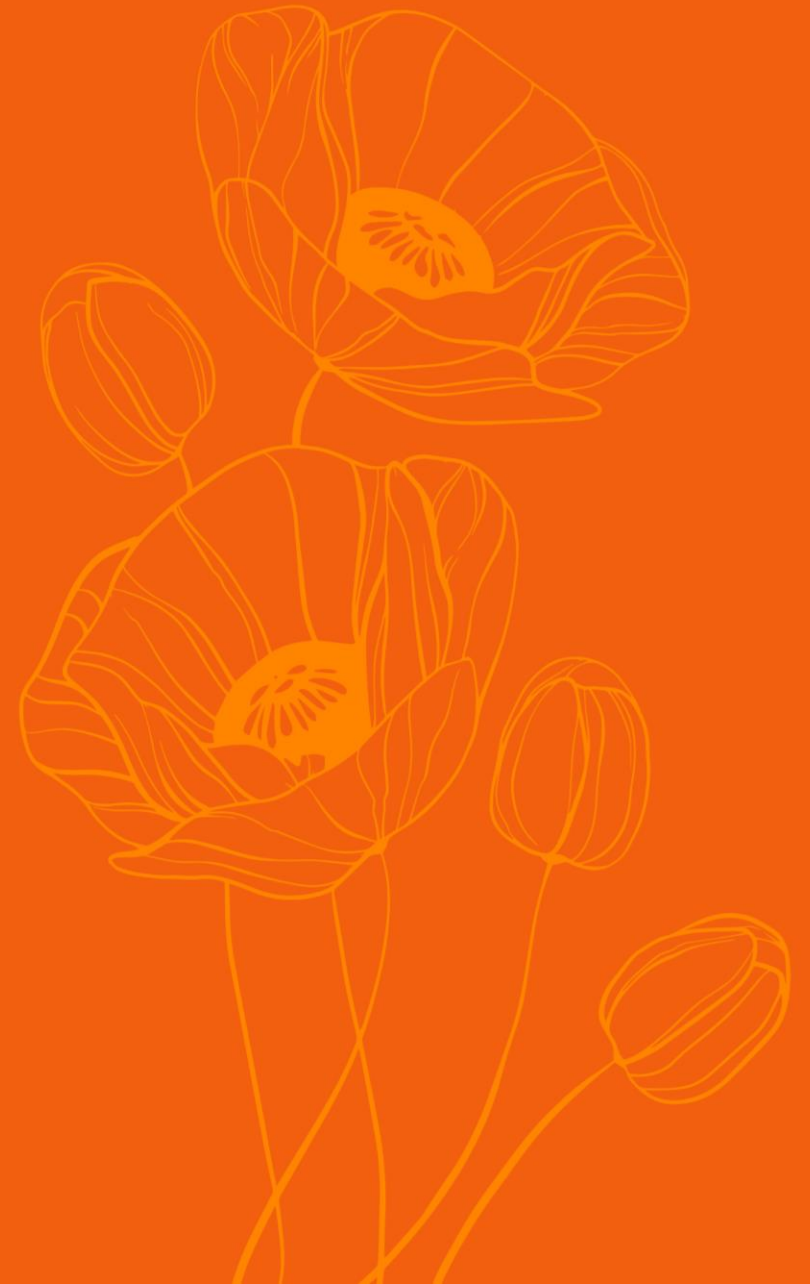
Working with
Persons -Justice
Involved



Working with
Persons- In Crisis



Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist: Scope of Practice



Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists

Scope of Service

Educational Skill Building Groups

Provided in a supportive environment in which the consumer and their families learn coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills to help the consumer achieve desired outcomes.

Groups promote skill building for the consumer in the areas of socialization, recovery, self-sufficiency, self-advocacy, development of natural supports, and maintenance of skills learned in other support services.

Engagement

Lead activities and coaching to encourage and support consumers to participate in behavioral health treatment.

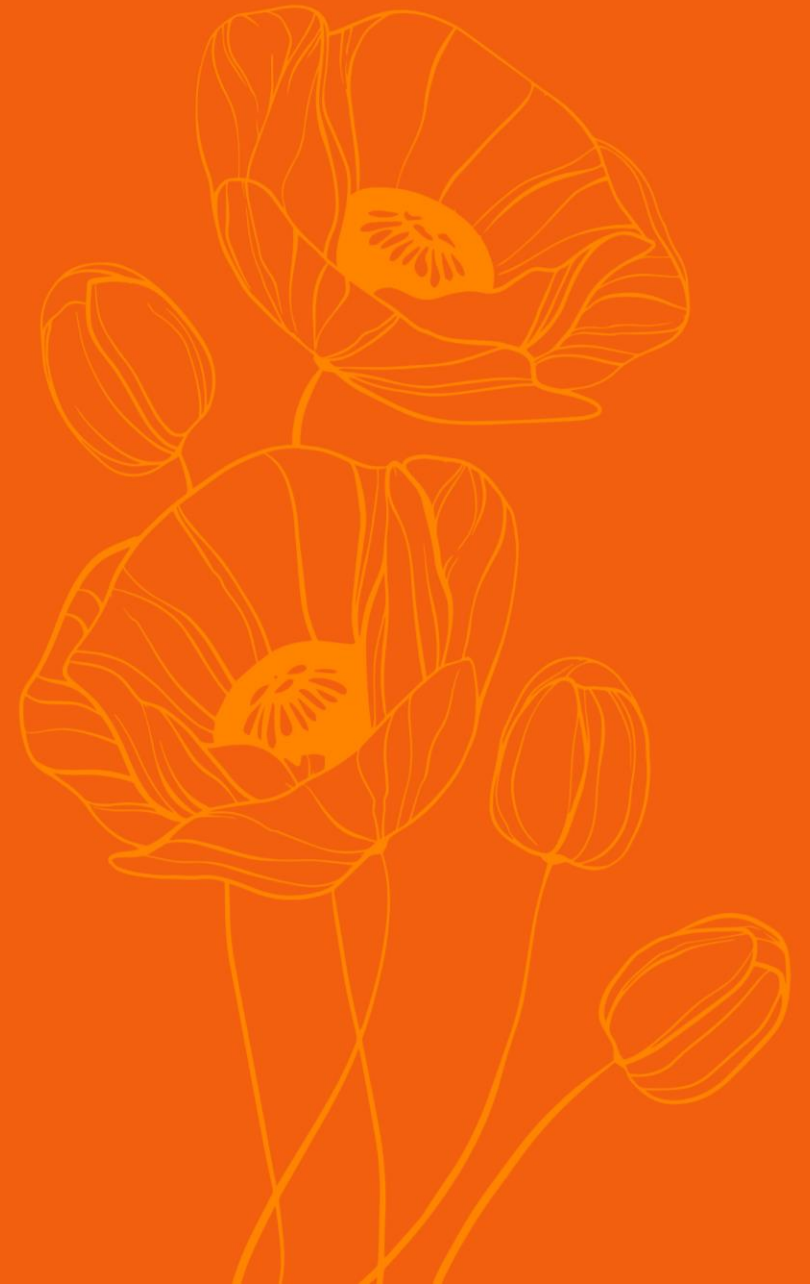
Engagement may include supporting consumers in their transitions between levels of care and supporting beneficiaries in developing their own recovery goals and processes.

Therapeutic Activity

A structured non-clinical activity to promote recovery, wellness, self-advocacy, relationship enhancement, development of natural supports, self-awareness and values, and the maintenance of community living skills to support the consumer's treatment to attain and maintain recovery within their communities.

Activities may include, but are not limited to, advocacy on behalf of the consumer; promotion of self-advocacy; resource navigation; and collaboration with consumers and others providing care or support to the consumer, family members, or significant support persons.

Role of the Certifying Entity



Certifying Entity- CaIMHSA

CaIMHSA was selected by county Behavioral Health Plans as the Certifying Entity for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists

- All administrative functions and development of standard procedures
- Responsible for certification, examination, and enforcement of professional standards for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists in California.
- Approves training entities to train on core competencies and areas of specialization
- Investigates consumer complaints and imposes disciplinary actions against a Certificant who violates the Code of Ethics.



Certifying Entity

Standardization

Maintaining standardization of certification across counties



Certification standards set by the Department of Health Care Services

Stakeholder Advisory Council

Members representing different county regions



Input to policy development

Peer Voice

Subject Matter Experts for development of exam



Identification of competencies for the 4 areas of specialization

Inclusion of program staff who identify as Peers at CalMHSA

Certifying Entity- Responsibilities

Data Collection

Collect and maintain records of:

- Candidates apply for certification
- Certified professionals
- Persons who receive Supervisor training
- Persons who receive Peer Specialist training from an approved training entity
- Submit yearly reports to DHCS

Specializations

Identified core competencies for the four areas of specializations

1. Parent, Caregiver, Family Member Peer
2. Peer Services in Crisis Care
3. Peer Services for Justice Involved
4. Peer Services for Unhoused

Administrative

In accordance with Code of Ethics for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists

- Investigates complaints made against a certified Medi-Cal Peer support specialist
- Takes actions against and individual's certification

Quality assurance

Outcomes evaluation

Certifying Entity- Responsibilities

Issue Certifications

Reviews applications to ensure individual has satisfied requirements for certification

Issues certifications to individuals

Reviews applications for certification renewal to ensure applicant meet renewal requirements

Certification Exam

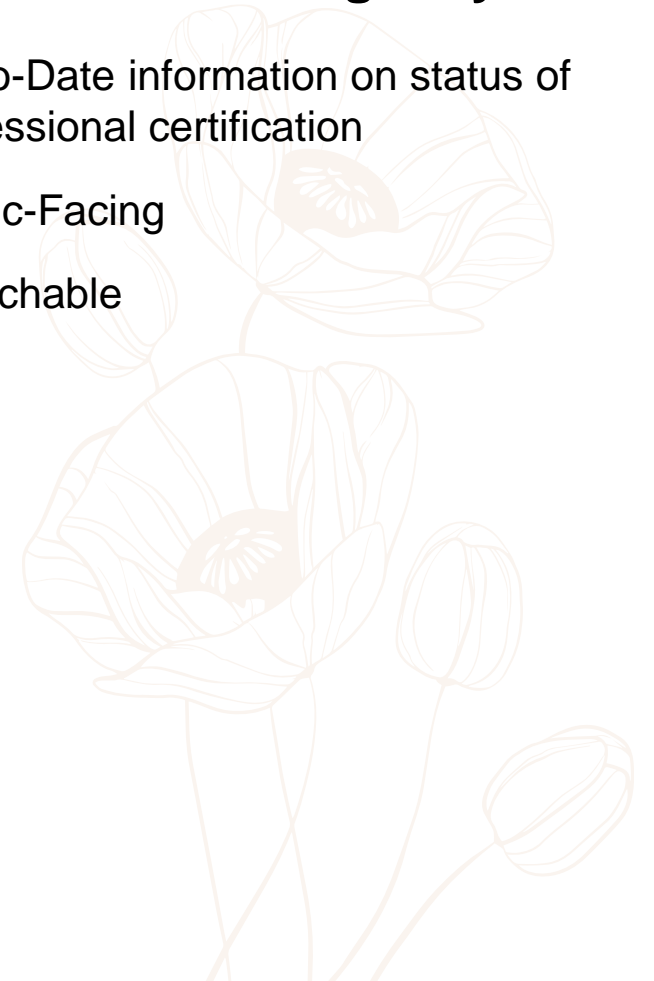
Developed exam with Subject Matter Experts

Administration of exam via third party

Certification Registry

Up-to-Date information on status of professional certification

Public-Facing
Searchable



Certification Requirements



Initial Certification Process

Requirements

1. Submit application on the CalMHSA Certification website.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age or older.
3. Possess a high school diploma, equivalency degree, or higher degree.
4. Self-identify as an individual with lived experience, Peer.
5. Be willing to share own experience as a person with lived experience to help others in their recovery.
6. Have a strong dedication to recovery.
7. Agree, in writing, to adhere to the California Department of Health Care Services Medi-Cal Code of Ethics for Peer Support Specialists in California.
8. Meet training requirement. Complete an 80-hour Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist training from an CalMHSA-approved training provider.
9. Successfully pass the certification exam.

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists Core Competencies

17-Core Competencies

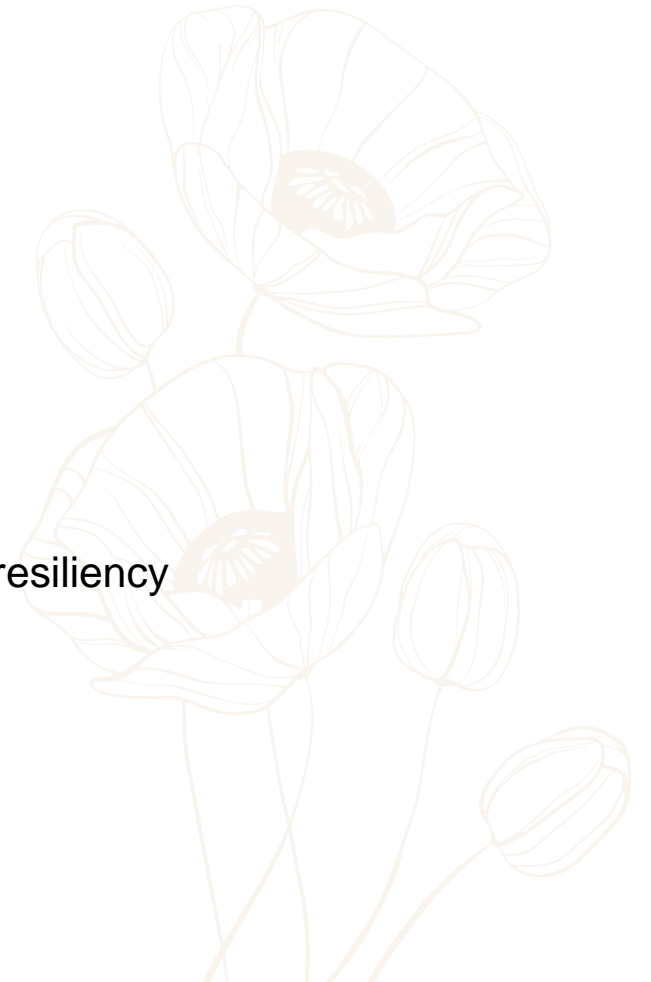
Training cover the following core competencies:

1. The concepts of hope, recovery, and wellness.
2. The role of advocacy.
3. The role of consumers and family members.
4. Psychiatric rehabilitation skills and service delivery, and addiction recovery principles, including defined practices.
5. Cultural and structural competence trainings.
6. Trauma-informed care.
7. Group facilitation skills.
8. Self-awareness and self-care.
9. Co-occurring disorders of mental health and substance use.
10. Conflict resolution.
11. Professional boundaries and ethics.
12. Preparation for employment opportunities, including study and test-taking skills, application and résumé preparation, interviewing, and other potential requirements for employment.
13. Safety and crisis planning.
14. Navigation of, and referral to, other services.
15. Documentation skills and standards.
16. Confidentiality.
17. Digital literacy.

Code of Ethics for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists

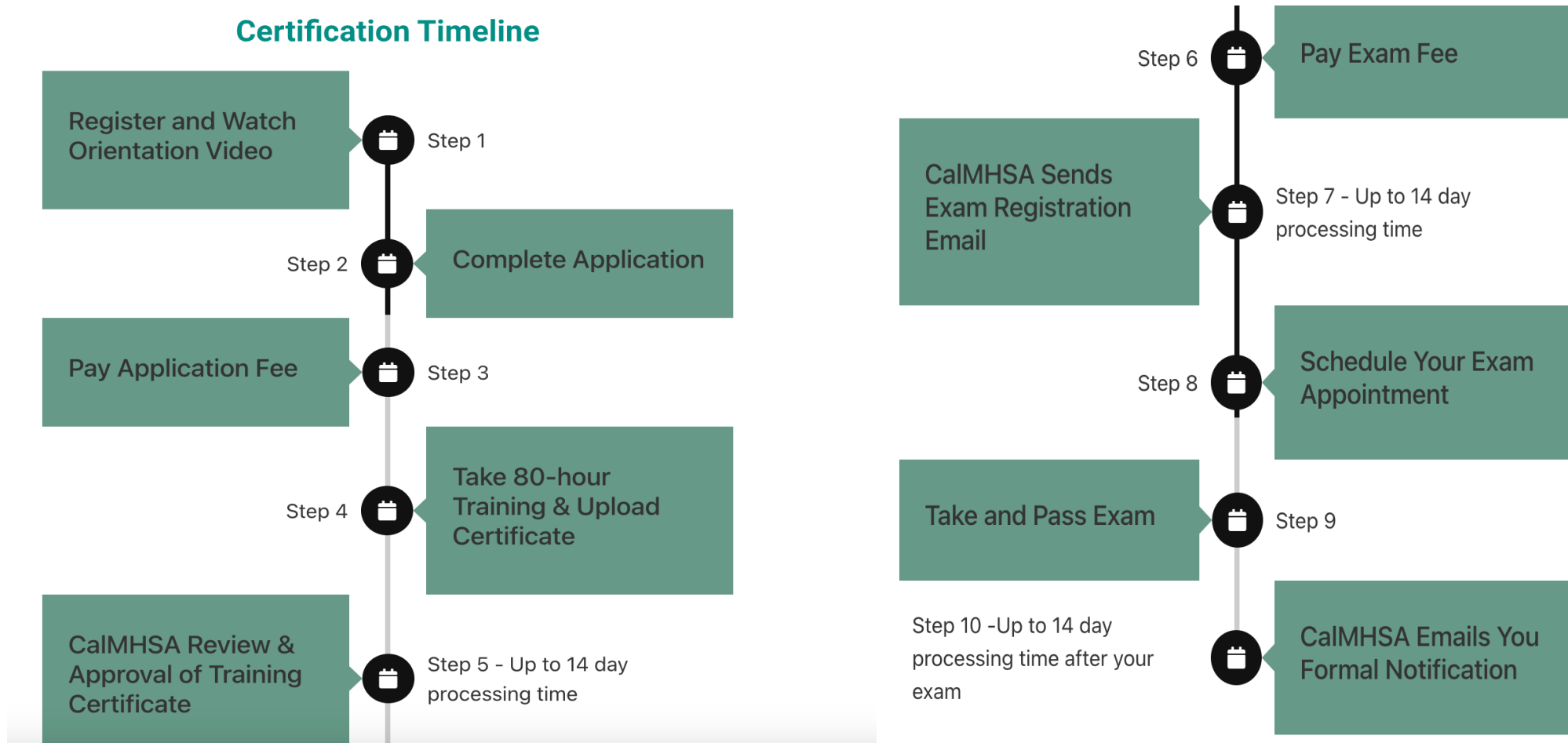
Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Code of Ethics

- Hope
- Person driven
- Family driven and child-centered
- Holistic wellness
- Authenticity
- Cultural responsiveness
- Respect
- Integrity
- Advocacy
- Confidentiality
- Safety & protection
- Education
- Mutuality
- Reciprocity
- Strengths-based
- Wellness, recovery resiliency



Certification Application Timeline

Certification Timeline



CaMHSA Certification Fee Schedule

Certification Fees

Below are the various fees associated with the Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification process. The fee schedule is subject to change. Fees are non-refundable and non-transferrable. For a complete list of fees visit [Fee Schedule](#) in the Resource Library.

Certified Peer Support Specialist Certification Fees

\$250
Initial Certification

- ⊕ Certification Application \$100
- ⊕ Certification Exam \$150
- ⊕ Exam Retake \$150

[How To Apply](#)

Please note fees are charged separately. Total cost of initial certification may vary due to exam retakes or denials.

***Please note. Training fees are not included. Cost for training is set and collected by training providers. Costs will vary.**

Certification Exam



Certification Exam

120-item multiple choice exam

Examination Content

The Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Exam is a 120-item multiple-choice test. Candidates will have 2.5 hours to complete the exam. The exam is designed to measure a candidate's competency in the following eight dimensions, which are broken down further in the **Examination Blueprint**:



- **Administration Responsibilities**

Examples of information: Ability to keep health records, adhere to professional standards, maintain confidentiality, collaborate with others, and have basic computer skills.

- **Behavioral Health Foundations**

Examples of information: Knowledge of mental health and substance use disorders and their associated treatments and recovery approaches, Knowledge of Peer recovery approaches and techniques to support recovery and well-being.

- **Interpersonal Skills**

Examples of information: Active listening, empathy, self-disclosure about lived experience, resilience, self-awareness, self-care, cultural awareness, trust, and mutual respect.

- **Recovery Support**

Examples of information: Knowledge of traditional behavioral health support and harm reduction models, recognition of differences between the peer support worker role and clinical provider role, person-centered destigmatizing language, coaching, effective coping strategies.

- **Advocacy**

Examples of information: Promotion of self-advocacy, empowerment skills, stigma, formal channels for advocacy.

- **Community Inclusion**

Examples of information: Encouraging engagement with social networks and building and strengthening social skills, serving as a liaison, empowerment in community-based activities.

- **Resource Linkage**

Examples of information: Assist in accessing community services and resources, visit/explore community resources, identify and secure resources related to treatment, recovery, and wellness.

- **Crisis Management**

Examples of information: Ability to identify helpful resources, develop strategy for planning/managing behavioral health crises, identify signs of behavioral health crises, engage in supportive response skills and encouragement.

Certification Exam

Important Information

- Reasonable accommodations requests are available to take the exam
 - Must submit request with CalMHSA prior to scheduling exam
 - CalMHSA form must be used and signed by a medical provider
 - CalMHSA has a 30-day review period for requests
- Exam is administered by a third party- Pearson VUE
 - In-person testing centers throughout CA
 - On-line with live proctoring
- Rescheduling and Cancellation of scheduled exam:
 - For online exams, you can cancel or reschedule your exam at any time, up to one hour BEFORE your scheduled appointment.
 - For in-person testing centers, you can reschedule or cancel your exam at any time, up to 48-hours BEFORE your scheduled appointment

Waiting until you are outside the cancellation window to cancel, you will not be able to cancel/reschedule your appointment, will forfeit the entire exam fee, and will be considered a no-show for the appointment. You will not be able to reschedule your appointment until you submit a retake request and pay associated fees to CalMHSA.

Certification Approval Period

*Applications:
approved for a
12-month
period*

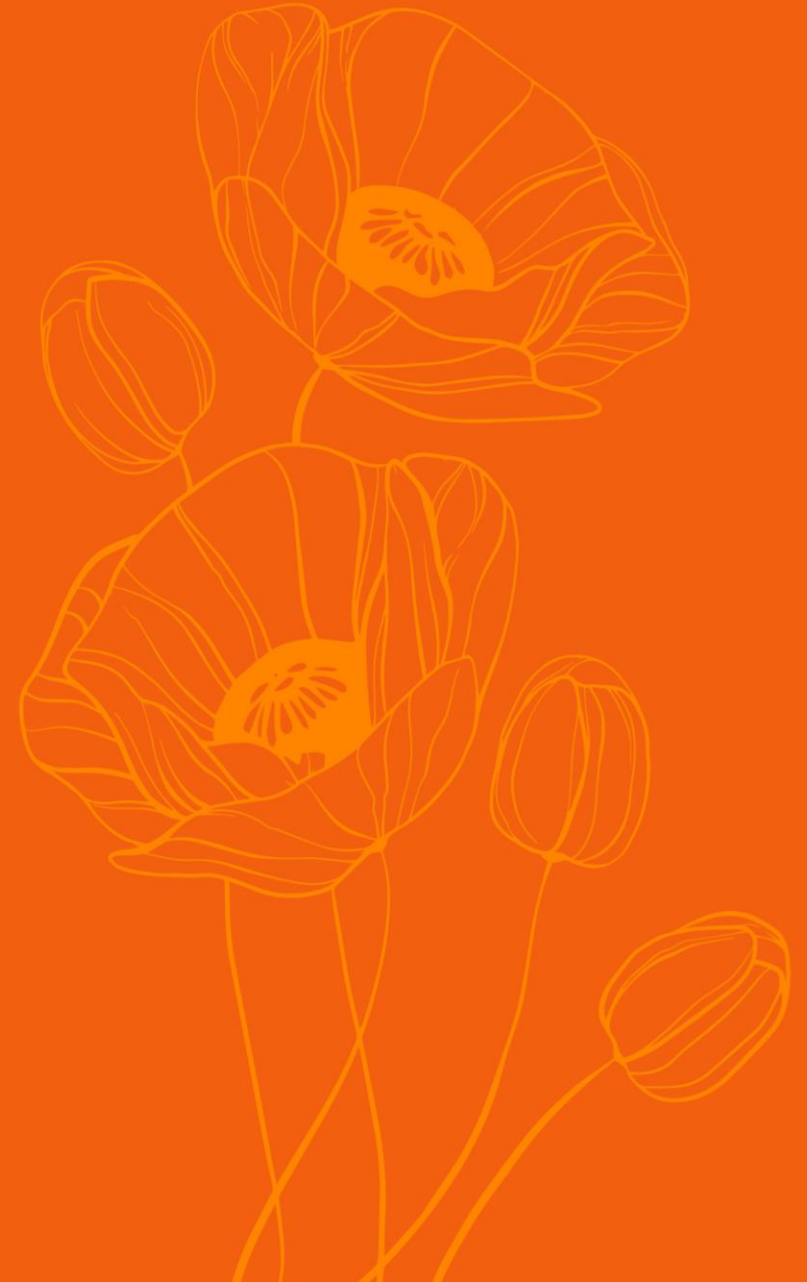
*Candidates
must complete
certification
within the 12-
month
approval
period*

*Candidates
forfeit fees and
must reapply
for certification
if certification
is not
completed
within the 12-
month
approval
period*

*Exam fee
cover the cost
for 1x attempt
at the
certification
exam*

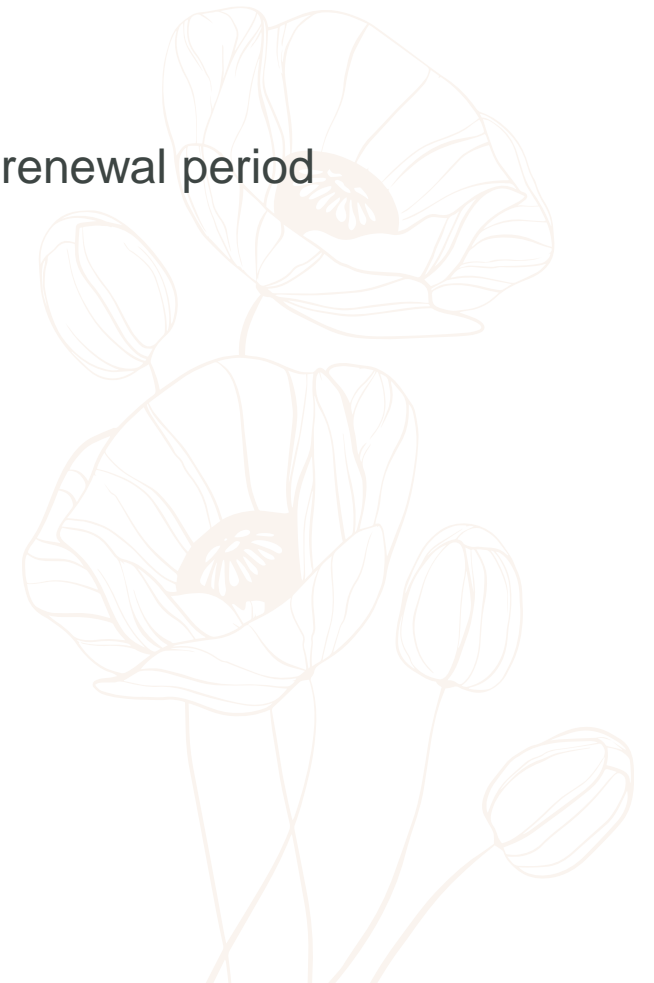
*Candidates
may attempt
the
certification
exam a total of
3 times in the
12-month
approval
period*

Biennial Certification Renewal

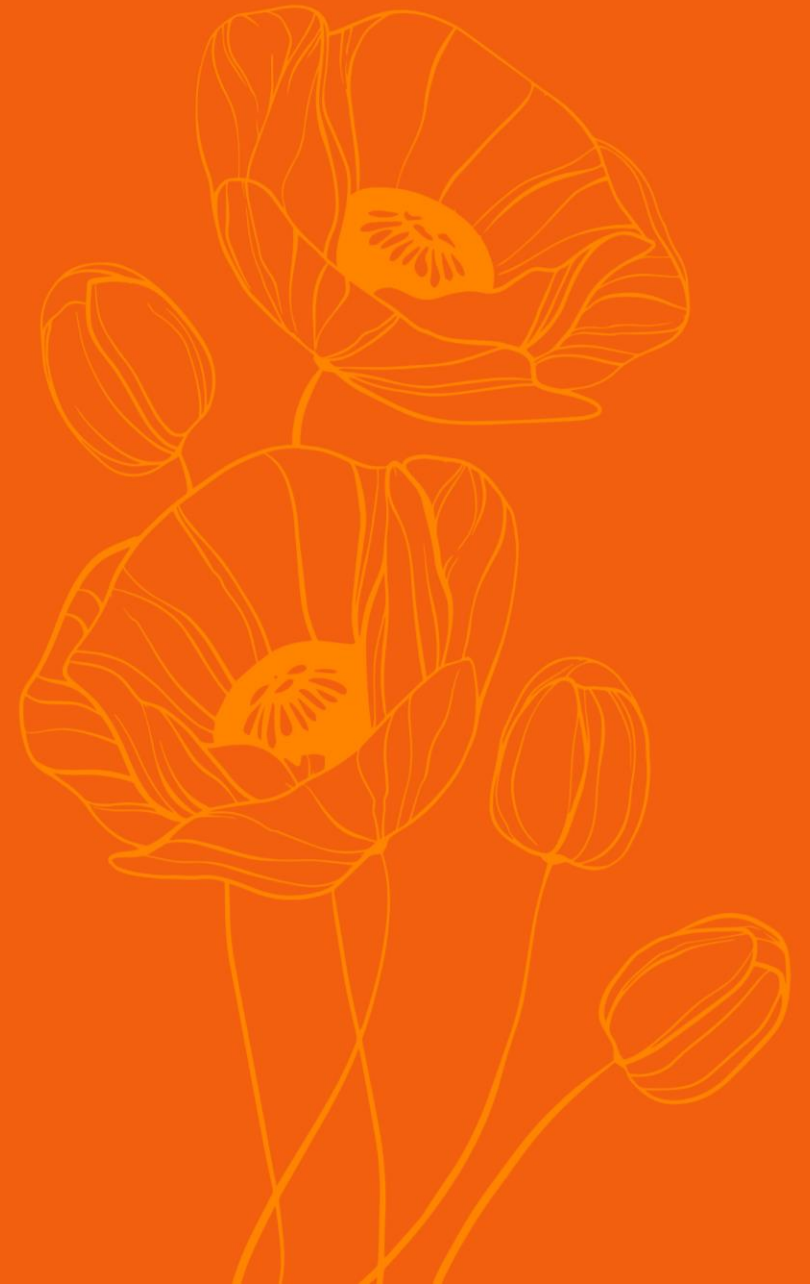


Certification Renewal

- Renewal is every 2 years to maintain certification
- Requires completing 20 hours of continuing education within the 2-year renewal period
 - Must complete 6 hours of law and ethics (inclusive of 20-hour)
- Certification must be in good standing to apply for renewal
- Application must be submitted prior to expiration date
- Fees must be submitted with application (\$80)
- Agree to adhere to the most recent Code of Ethics



Supervision of Peer Workers



Supervision Standard

- Complete a DHCS-approved supervision of peer workers training
- CalMHSA offers “Supervision of Peer Workers” training
- Training course is **free** to everyone
- Training is based on SAMHSA’s best practice standards
- Training is a 1-hour self-paced training
- Training registration is available on the CalMHSA certification website
- DHCS standards require supervisors of peer workers to completed training within 60-days of starting the supervision of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists



Scholarships



DHCS-Funded Scholarships

For Certification (closed)

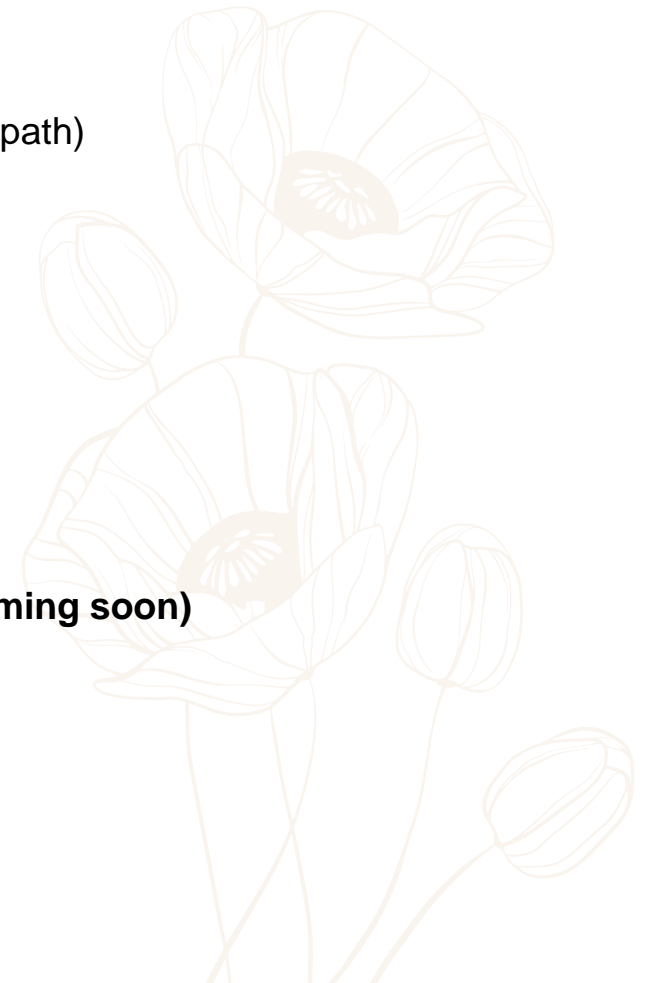
- All scholarships have been distributed:
 - Grandparenting certification path: 1390
 - Initial certification path: 2734
(remaining funding from grandparenting scholarships redistributed to initial certification path)

For Training in Parent, Caregiver, Family Member Peer specialization (open)

- Distributing 275 scholarships on a rolling basis
- Distribution by regions
- Scholarship remaining: 129

For Training in Other Areas of Specialization (unhoused, crisis, and justice involved) (coming soon)

- Distributing 275 scholarships area on a rolling basis (for each area)
- Distribution by regions

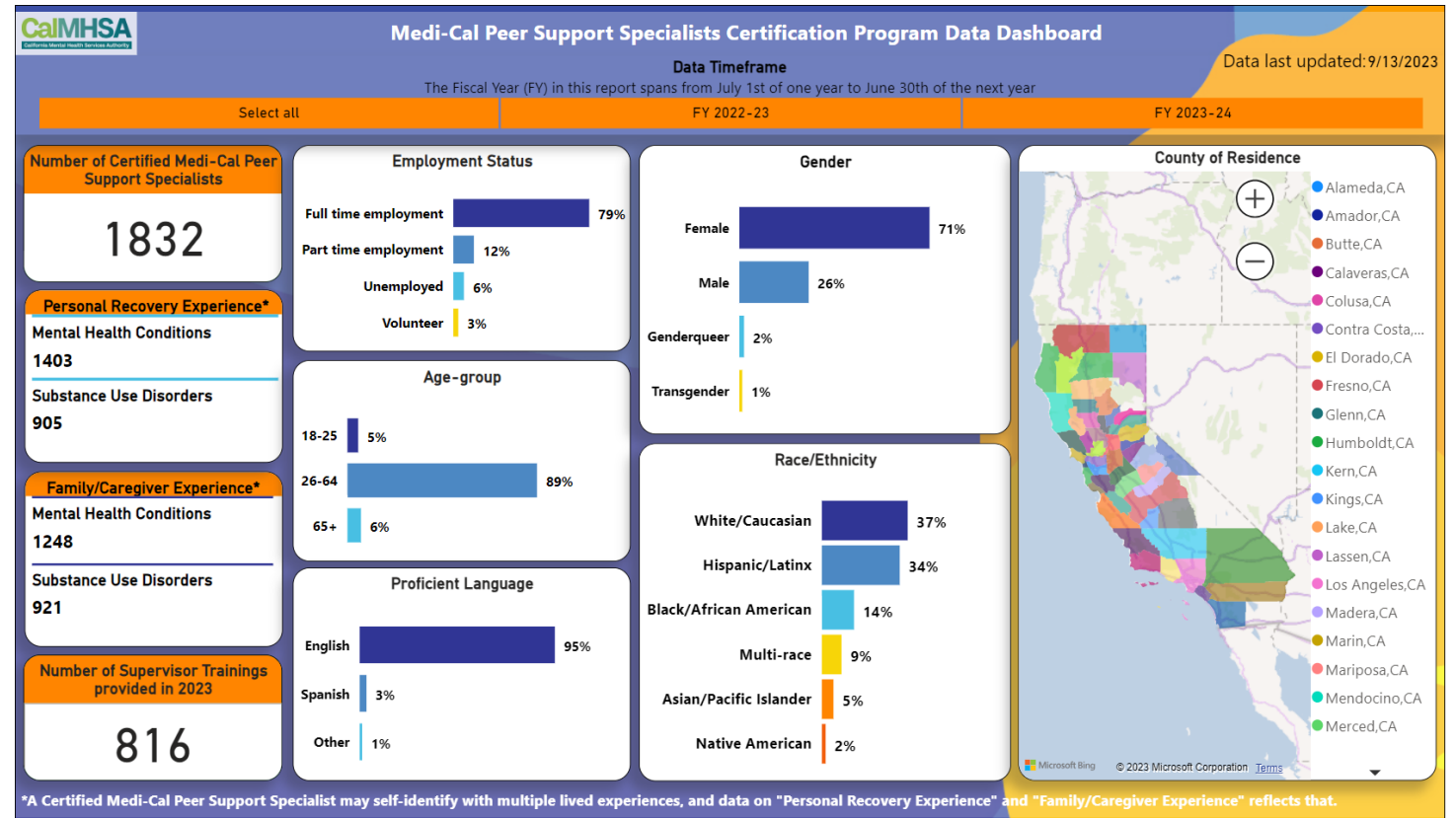


Data Snapshot



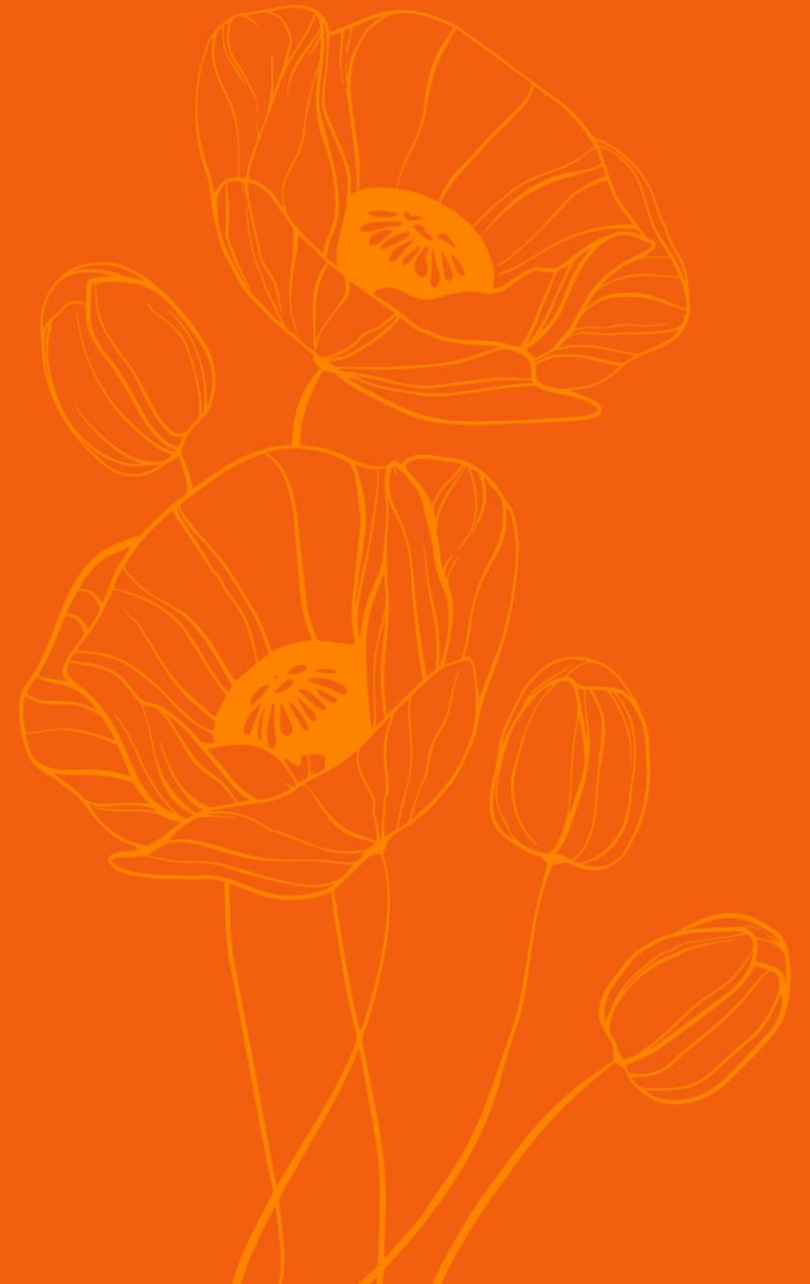
Data Dashboard

An interactive Data Dashboard is now available that provides insights into the diverse community of the **Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists**



CalMHSA Peer Certification Program Dashboard

Resources



CaIMHSA Certification Website

Quick overview: [CA Peer Certification](#)

Translate »

MEDI-CAL PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION



Welcome to CaIMHSA's Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program website!

We are delighted to have you here and excited to provide you with all the information you need to begin your journey towards becoming a certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist in California. Our website is your go-to resource for everything related to the certification program, from eligibility requirements to certification standards and training options. We understand that the journey towards certification can be challenging, but we are here to support you every step of the way. We encourage you to take your time to explore our website and make use of the resources available to you. We are committed to providing you with the guidance and resources you need to succeed. Thank you for stopping by. We wish you the best of luck on your journey towards becoming a certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist!

Updates & Announcement

Introducing our [Best Practice Guidelines for Employing Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists!](#) We're excited to share these valuable insights and recommendations that will help organizations optimize their integration of Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists. Explore these guidelines to enhance your peer workforce and improve the quality of care you provide.

[New Peer Certification Data Dashboard!](#)

This data report provides insights into the diverse community of the Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists contributing to the Behavioral Health Workforce of California!

[New Accommodation Request Form](#)

We have updated our Reasonable Accommodation Request Form. Please note we will not accept requests with the old form after October 1, 2023

CaIMHSA Certification Website

To begin your application register here ->

[REGISTER/LOGIN](#)



California Mental Health Services Authority

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [CERTIFICATION](#) [TRAINING](#) [EXAM](#) [RESOURCE LIBRARY](#)

Information on
certification
requirements

Information on
CaIMHSA-
approved
training
providers

Info on
certification
exam
(including prep
guide)

More detailed
informtion

Ways to Communicate

Certification Website

[CA Peer Certification](#)

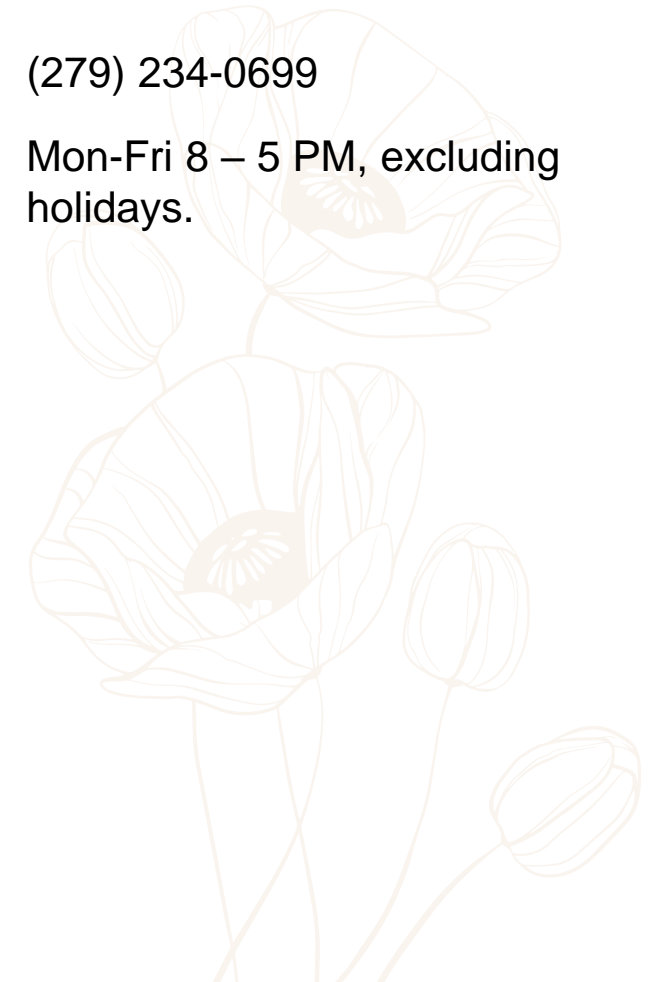
Email

PeerCertification@calmhsa.org

Phone

(279) 234-0699

Mon-Fri 8 – 5 PM, excluding
holidays.



Resources

- [CaMHSA Certification Website](#)
 - [General certification information](#)
 - [Code of Ethics](#)
 - [Scope of Practice](#)
 - [Details on CaMHSA-approved training providers](#)
 - [Exam preparation guide](#)
 - [Reasonable accommodations requests](#)



Thank You!



Self-Paced Learning Opportunities

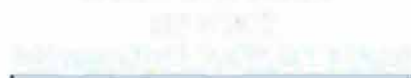
Individualized Learning Plan: MATE ACT

Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act
Trainings to meet the 8-hour DEA requirement

- **The Intersection of DEA & MAT** (1.5 credit hours)
- **Addressing Fentanyl Use In Primary Care** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Structural Competency: Medicine for the Inequalities that are Making Us Sick** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Advancing Equity in Substance Use Disorder Treatment** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Addressing Stimulant Use in Primary Care Settings** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Methamphetamine Use and Affective Disorders** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Trauma-Informed Care** (1.0 credit hour)
- **Homelessness and Substance Use Disorder in Veterans** (1.0 credit hour)



Scan the code



Accredited
Courses



Self-Paced
Learning



Individualized
Learning
Plans

UCLA

David Geffen School of Medicine

Integrated Substance Abuse Programs