

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist

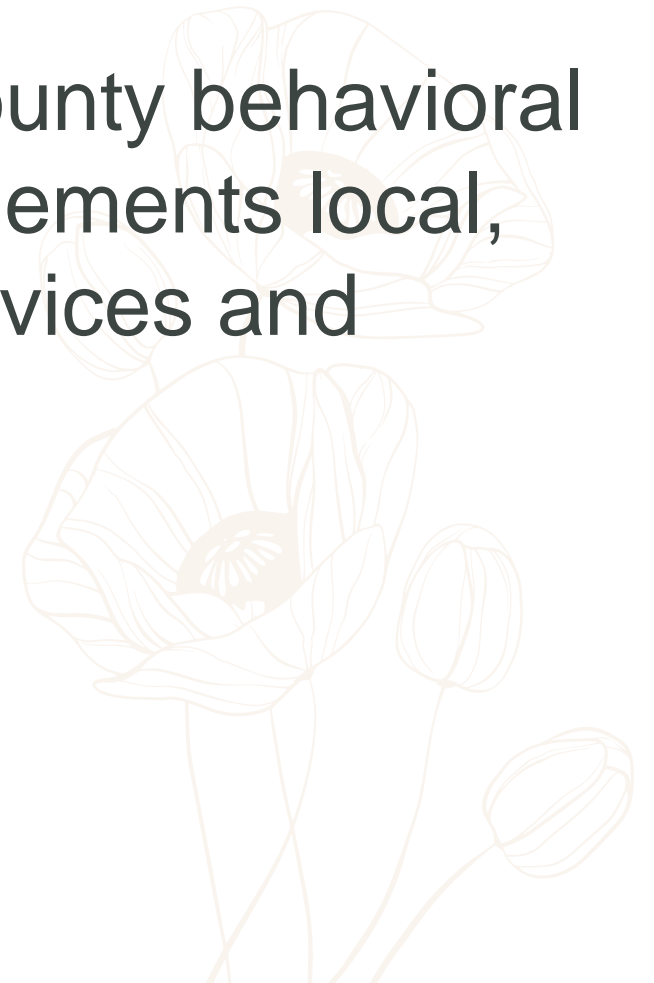
General Information

April 2023



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.



Program Specialists



**Medi-Cal Peer
Support Specialist
Certification**



Will



Joanna



Milan



Gisselle



Ashley

Other Program Staff

Tatiana,
Administrative
Assistance

Nivy,
Epidemiologist

Mayra,
Program
Manager

Anna,
Business
Analyst

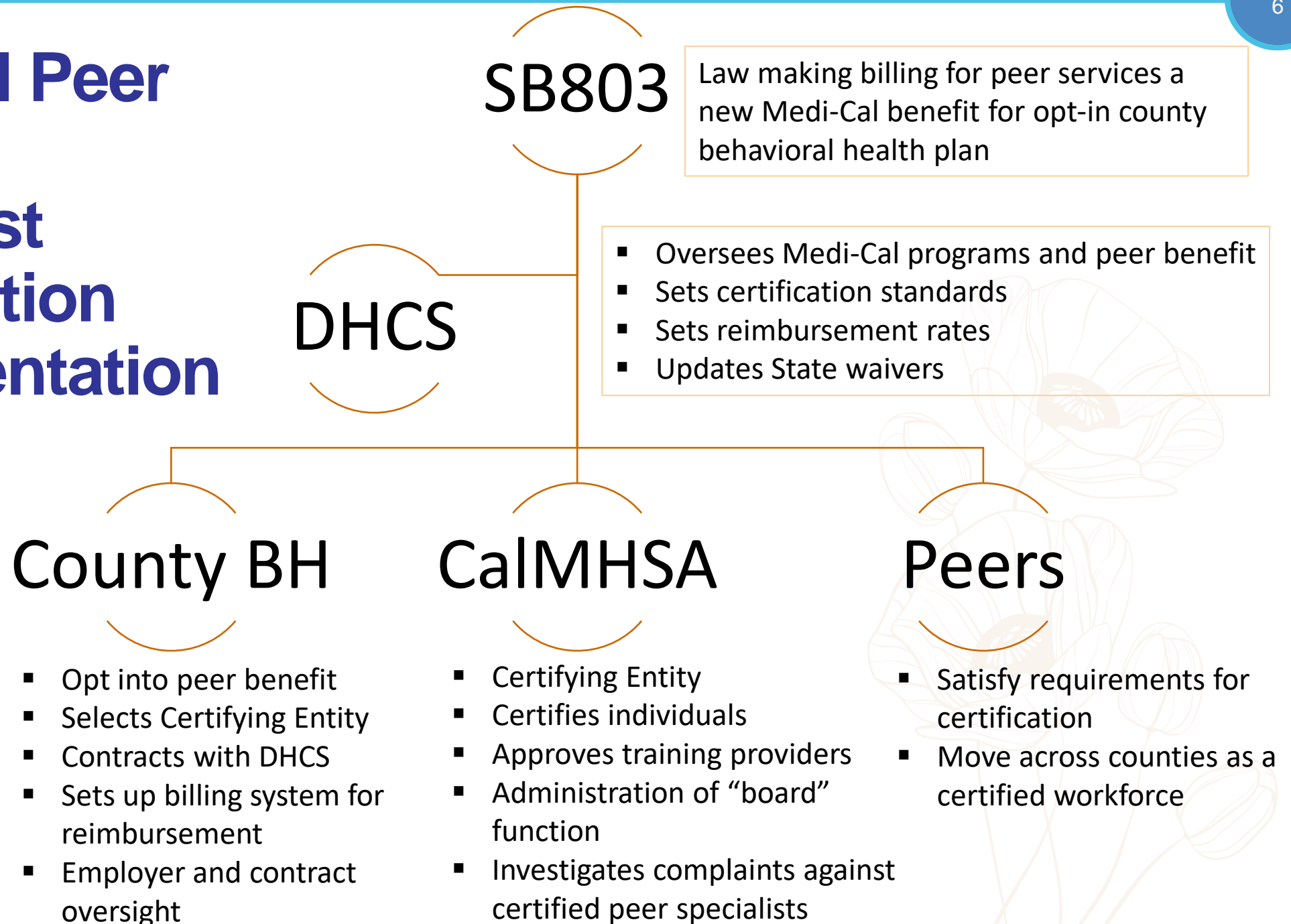
Peter,
Information
Technology

Lucero,
Program
Director

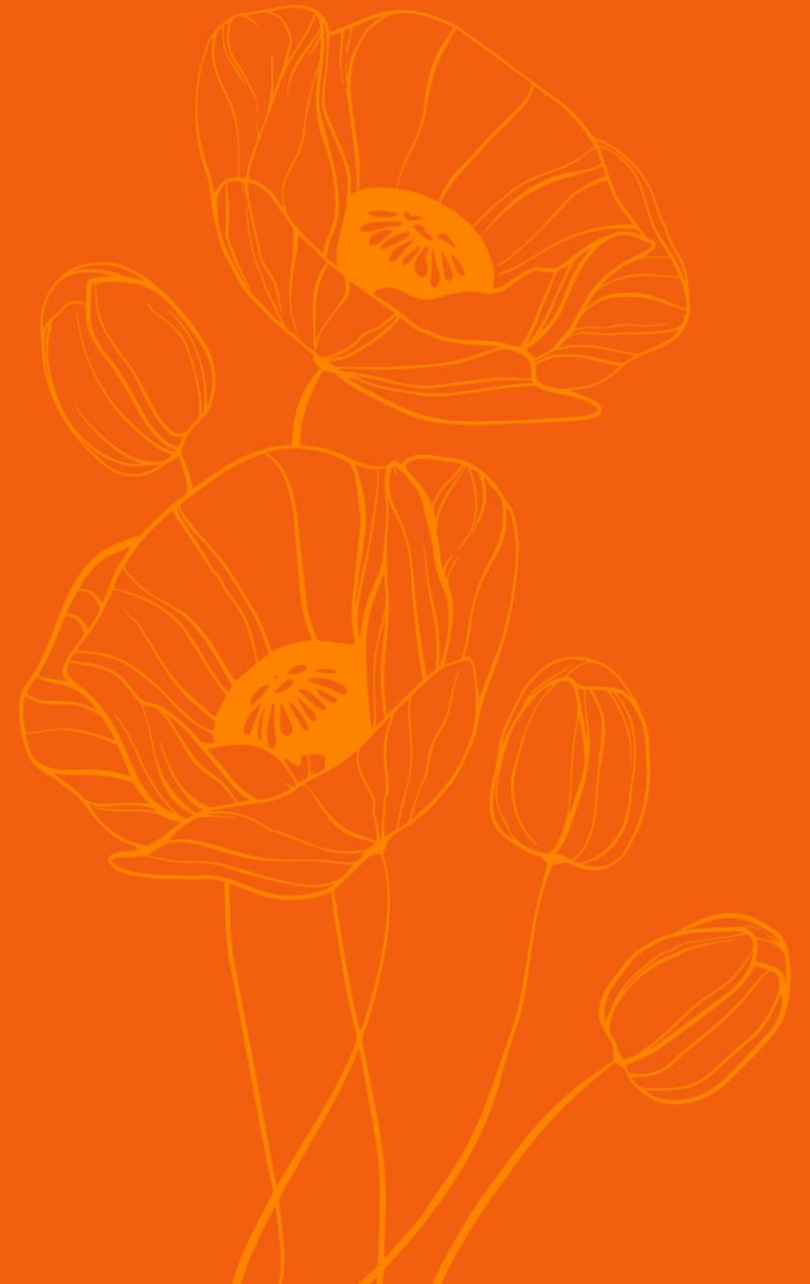
Background



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

Parent, Caregiver, Family Member Peer

Specialization

Working with Persons - Unhoused

Specialization

Working with Persons -Justice Involved

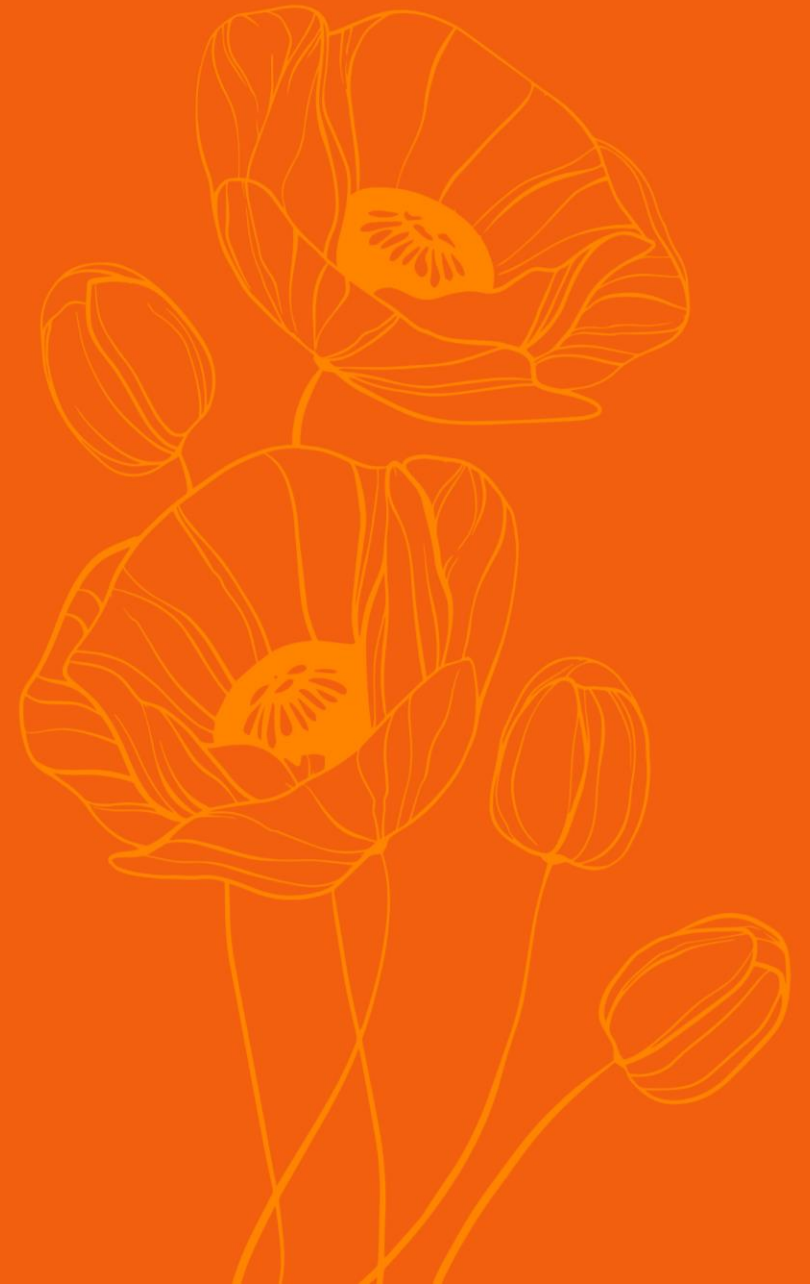
Specialization

Working with Persons- In Crisis

Specialization

Must be in place by July 1, 2023 (extended)

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 items



Identification of curricula competencies for the 4 areas of specialization

Inclusion of program staff who identify as Peers at CalMHSA

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

Exam

Developed exam with Subject Matter Experts in put

Administration of exam via third party

Specializations

Identified core competencies for the four areas of specializations

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

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

Certification Registry

Up-to-Date information on status of professional certification

Public-Facing

Searchable

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

Certification Requirements



Certification Requirements

All persons seeking certification must meet these 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.
9. Successfully pass the exam.

Certification- Grandparenting Process

Deadline to submit application ends 6/30/2023

Certification Requirements

1. Submit application on the CalMHSA Certification website.
2. Must be at least 18 years of age or older.
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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.
9. Successfully pass the exam.

Grandparenting Process

And must meet at least ONE of the following:

Option 1: One (1) year paid or unpaid work experience with a minimum accumulation of 1550 hours of experience in a peer role

Option 2: Minimum of 1550 hours in 3-years with 500 hours completed within the last 12-months, working as a peer (paid or unpaid)

And must also meet ALL the following:

1. Employed in a Peer role on 1/1/22 and at time of application
2. Complete 20 hours of continuing education (CEs), inclusive of 6 hours of law and ethics. CE course training shall have been taken in the last 2 years.
3. Completion of a Peer training. Peer training is defined as training focused on concepts of peer recovery and resiliency. Proof of completion is required.
4. Three (3) letters of recommendation (supervisor, colleague/professional, & Self).

Certification- Initial Certification Process

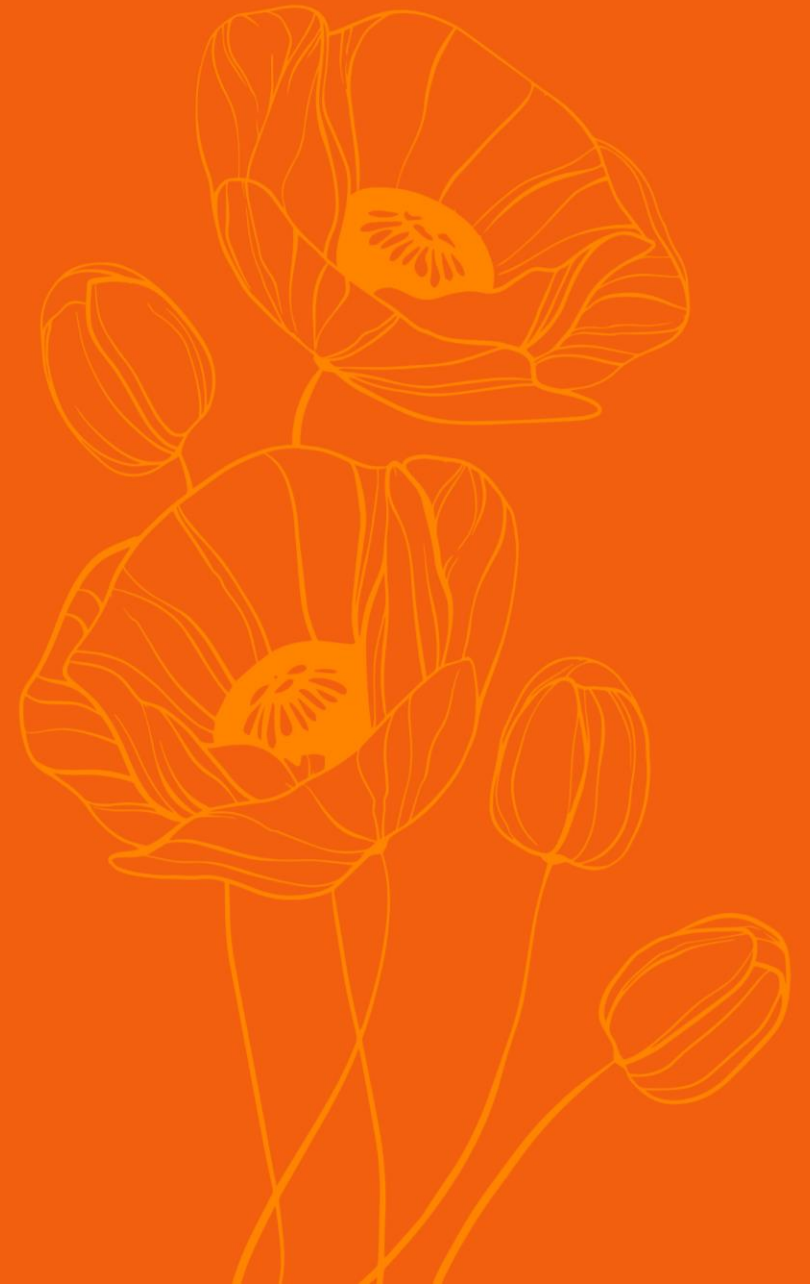
Certification Requirements

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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.
9. Successfully pass the exam.

Training Requirement

Complete an 80-hour Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist training from an approved training entity.

Scholarships



Scholarships

Scholarships funding through the Department of Health Care Services

Scholarships available first come-first serve

Time-limited funding in the form of scholarships

- Scholarships under grandparenting pathway cover costs for certification application and certification exam (1x)
- Scholarships under initial pathway cover costs for certification application and certification exam (1x) *and* training from an approved training provider

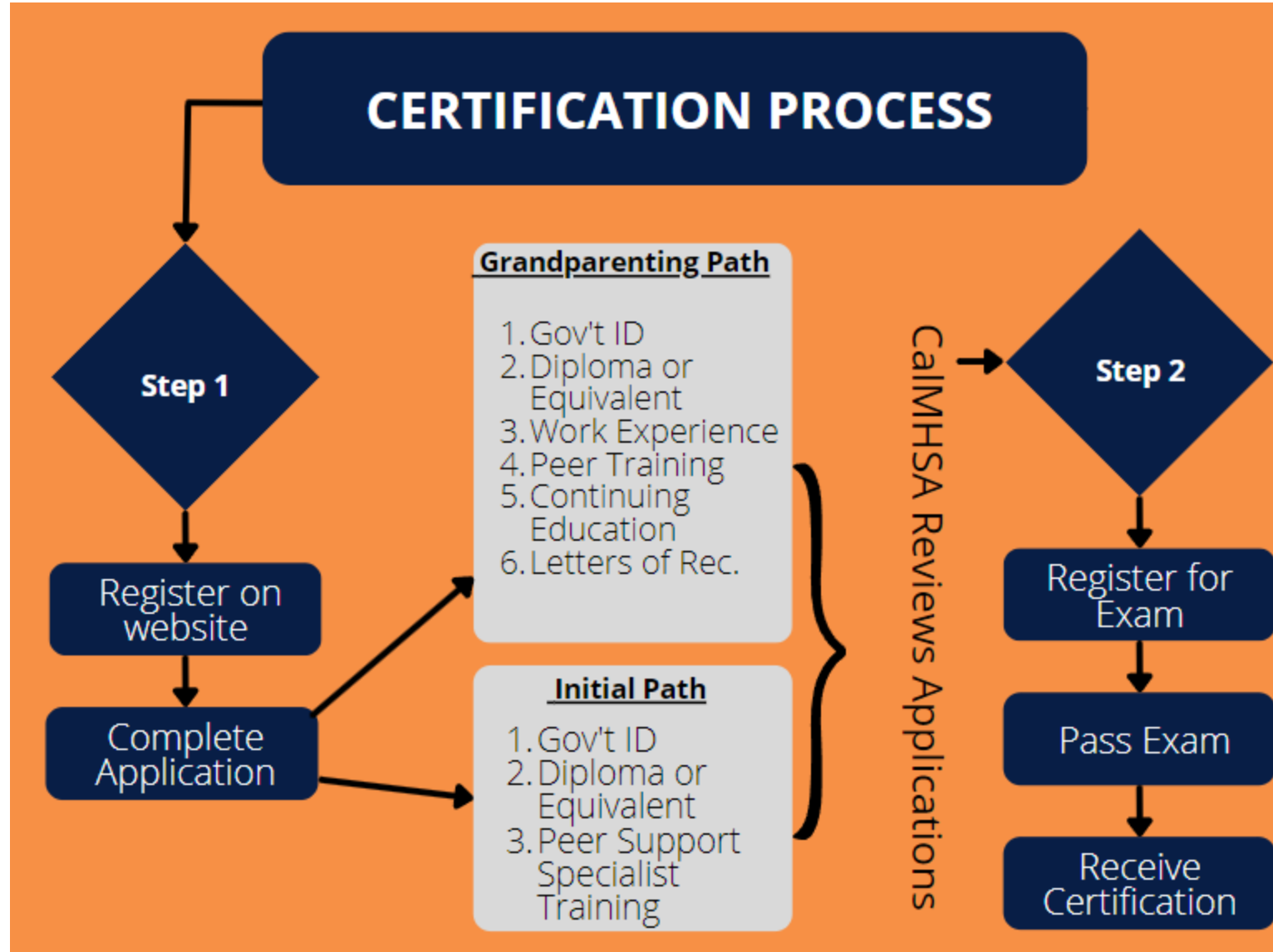
CaIMHSA's Role

CaIMHSA is administering the distribution of scholarships

Reviews applications to ensure certification standards have been met

Individuals apply via the Certification website (scholarship is awarded directly to the individual)





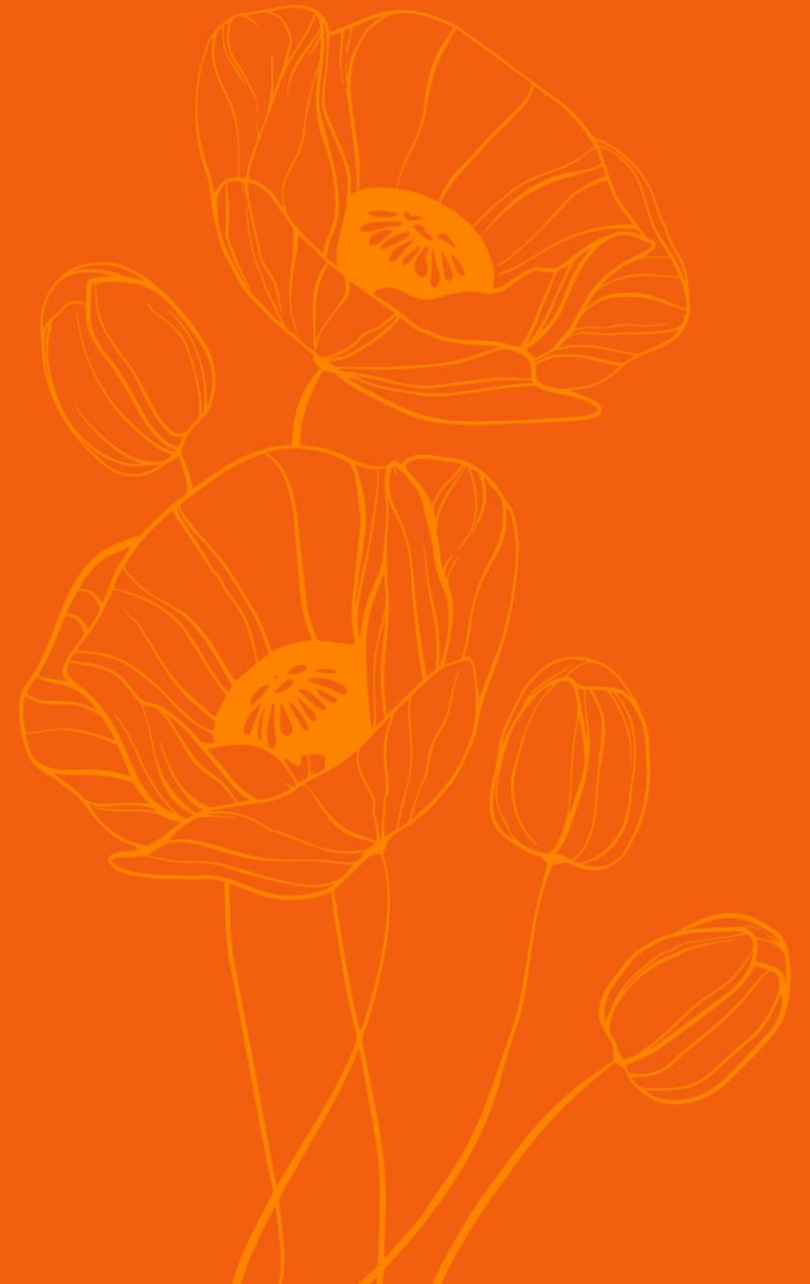
Certification Approval Period

Applications are 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

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 are 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 fees cover the cost for 1x attempt at the certification exam

Biennial Re- Certification

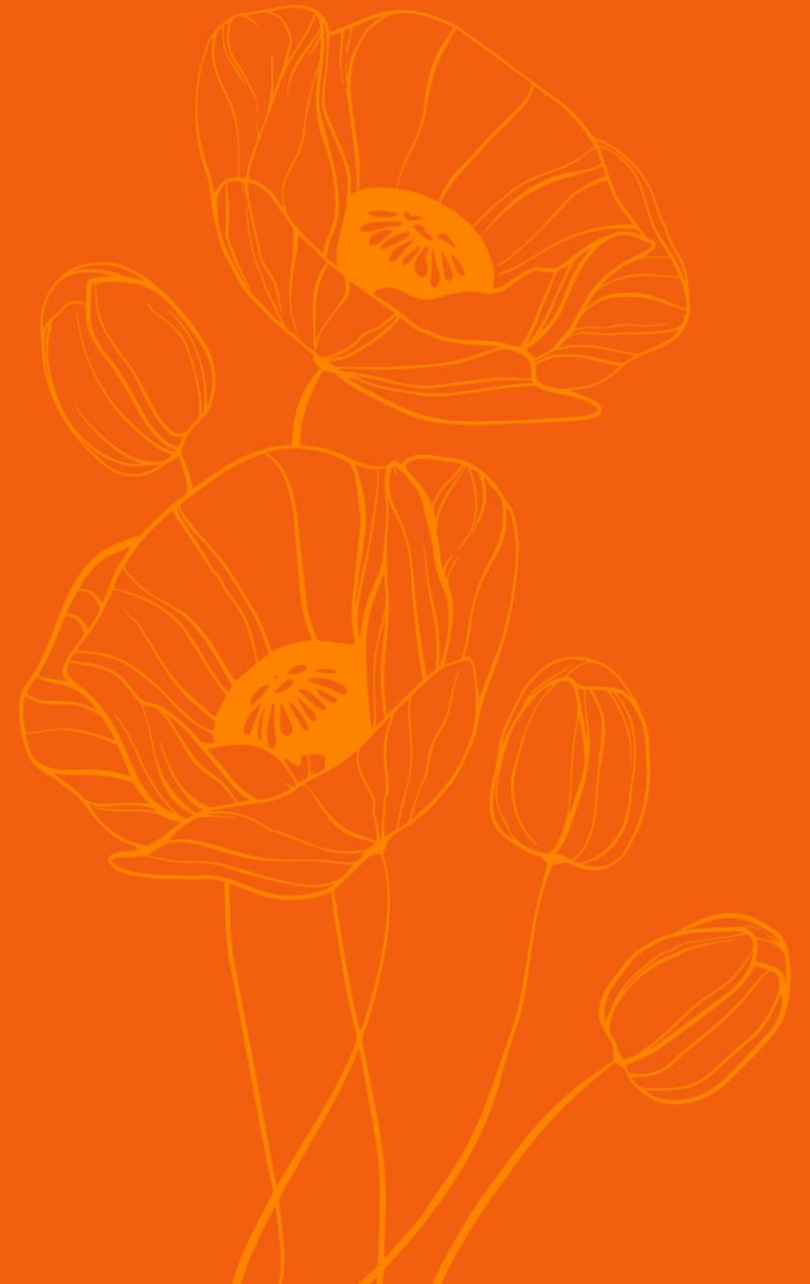


Certification Renewal

- Every 2 years
- Requires 20 hours of continuing education, inclusive of 6 hours of law and ethics
- Agree to the most recent Code of Ethics

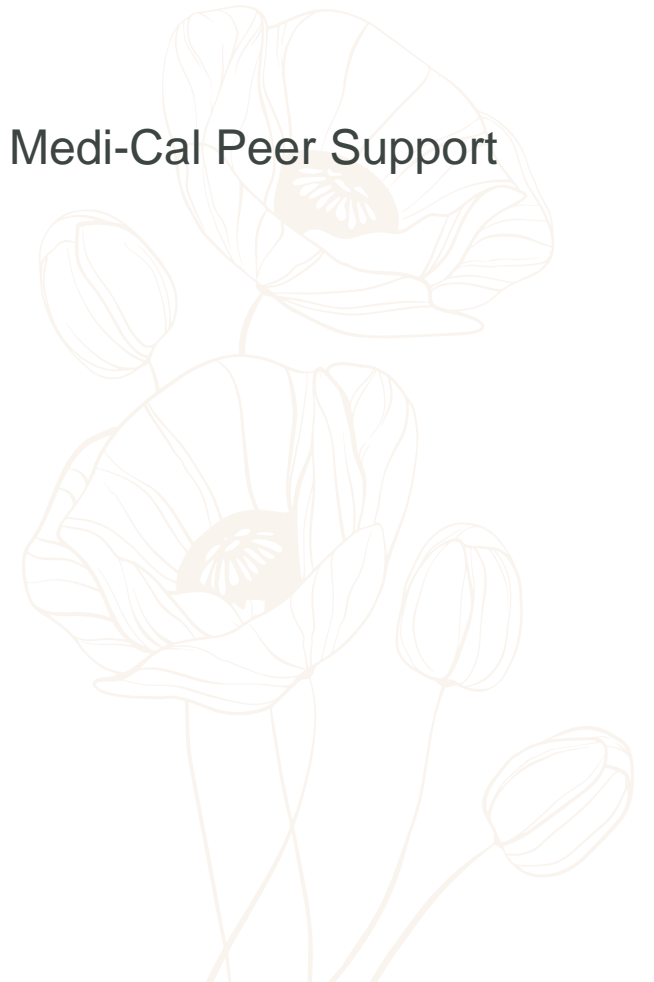


Supervision of Peer Workers

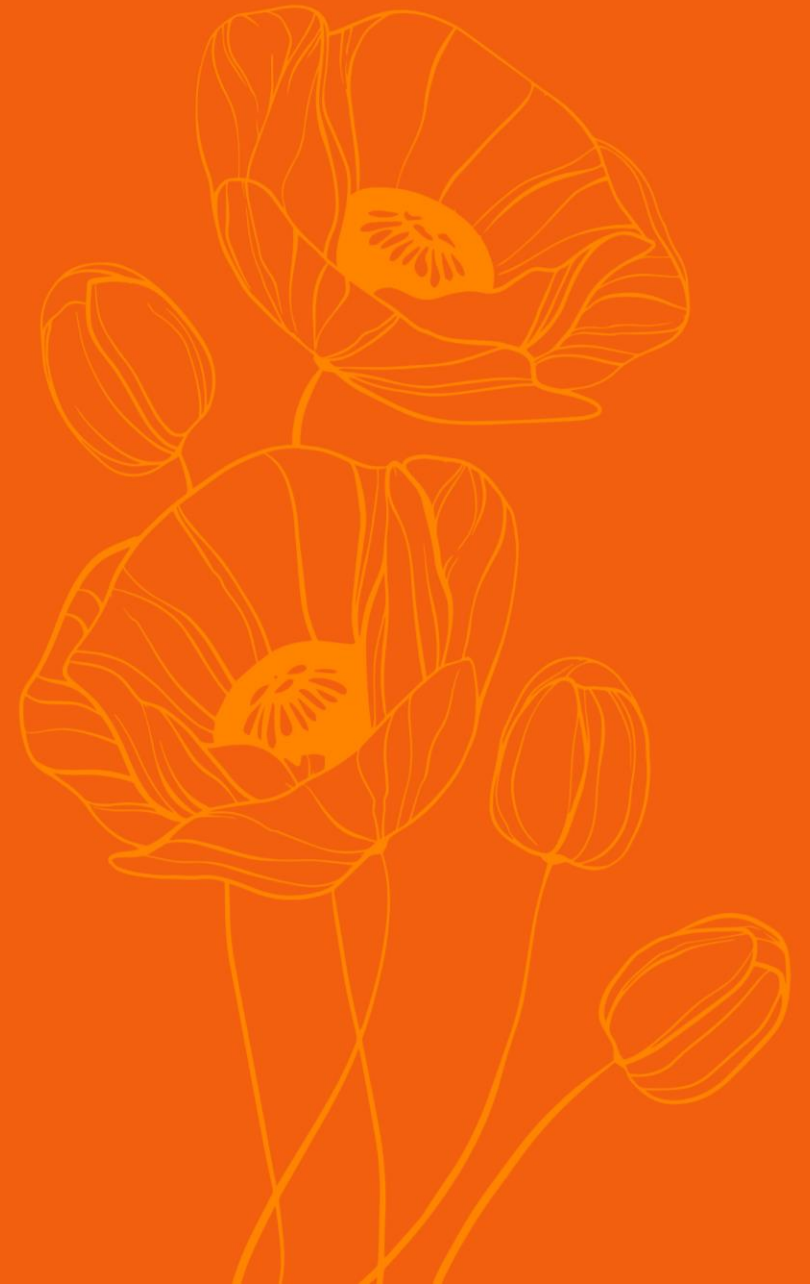


Supervision Standard

- Complete the CaMHSA “Supervision of Peer Workers” training
- Training course is **free** to everyone
- Training shall be completed within 60-days of starting the supervision of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists
- Training is based on SAMHSA’s best practice standards
- Training is a 1-hour self-paced training
- Training is available on the CaMHSA certification website



Resources



CaIMHSA Certification Website

Quick overview: www.CAPeerCertification.org

MEDI-CAL PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION



Welcome!

Welcome to CaIMHSA's Medi-Cal Peer Certification Program website! Here we will provide you with all the information you need to get started with your certification application, or simply to find out more about the program. We are glad you are here. Feel free to browse the different tabs for more information and remember to visit frequently to view any updates or announcements.

Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Registry

SEARCH

Select SEARCH to view the California Mental Health Services Authority (CaIMHSA) Certificant Registry. The Certification Registry is a repository of information for Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist with a professional certification in California. The Certification Registry is accessible to the public to verify a professional certification.

Updates & Announcement

- Request for Proposals Open for Peer Specialization Training
- 2023 Updated Guidelines & Procedures Manual
- Scholarships are open to general public!!
- Become a Training Provider
- How to Apply for Certification

CaIMHSA Certification Website

Quick overview: www.CAPeerCertification.org

To begin your application register here ->

[REGISTER/LOGIN](#)



California Mental Health Services Authority

HOME ABOUT US CERTIFICATION TRAINING EXAM RESOURCE LIBRARY ESPAÑOL

Information on
certification
requirements

Information on
CaIMHSA-
approved
training
providers

Info on
certification
exam
(including prep
guide)

More detailed
informtion

Information in
Spanish

CaMHSA Fee Schedule

Certification Fee Schedule

ITEMS	\$100	\$150	\$80
Application for Certification	✓		
Certification Exam		✓	
Certification Exam Retake		✓	
Certification Renewal or Reinstatement			✓

Please Note: Training fees are set by each individual CaMHSA-approved training provider. Contact the training provider directly for information on fees and registration. CaMHSA-approved training providers are located on the CaMHSA certification website.

CaMHSA Fee Schedule

Training Provider Fee Schedule

ITEMS	\$300
Application for Training Provider (core competency 80-hour training)	✓
Application for Training Providers (Per Area of Specialization)	✓
Application for Continuing Education Provider (under development)	✓
Renewal Application for Training Provider	✓

Ways to Communicate

Certification Website

www.CAPeerCertification.org

Email

PeerCertification@calmhsa.org

Phone

(279) 234-0699

Mon-Fri 8 – 5 PM, excluding
holidays.



Resources

- **CaIMHSA Certification Website:** www.CAPeerCertification.org
 - General certification information: <https://www.capeercertification.org/certification/>
 - Details on grandparenting guidelines: <https://www.capeercertification.org/certification-grandparenting>
 - Details on CaIMHSA-approved training providers: <https://www.capeercertification.org/training-for-medi-cal-peer-support-specialist/>
 - Exam preparation guide: <https://www.capeercertification.org/certification-exam/>
 - Reasonable accommodations requests: <https://www.capeercertification.org/exam-accommodations>

Thank You!

