



Scholarship Opportunity: Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification

The California Department of Health Care Services is invested in supporting workforce and development in the public behavioral health system. The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is identifying individuals for scholarship opportunities for certification as Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists. The scholarships cover all costs related to the application, training, and examination. For individuals seeking certification through the legacy process (aka grandparenting), the scholarships cover the costs for the application and examination.

How to Apply?

- Use the online [Application Form](#) to submit your information.
- If you have any questions on the scholarship application, contact County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services at BHS-HPA.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.
- The State also offers the public and stakeholders this email address for Peer-related questions and comments: Peers@dhcs.ca.gov.

Certification Requirements:

- Must be at least 18 years of age. Proof of age is required (state or government-issued photo identification, such as driver's license, identification card, or passport).
- Possess a high school diploma, general equivalency degree (GED), or college degree. Submission of diploma or transcripts are required.
- Self-identify as having experience with the process of recovery from mental illness or substance use disorder, either as a consumer of these services or as the parent, caregiver, or family member of a consumer.
- Be willing to share one's experience as a person with lived experience and recovery to help others.
- Have a strong dedication to recovery.
- Agree, in writing, to the Medi-Cal Code of Ethics.
- Watch the Orientation and Self-Assessment video prior to submitting application (approximately 30-minutes in length).
- Submit a complete application within the open scholarship application timeframe. Responses to the narrative question will be evaluated.
- Pass the state exam.

Processing Scholarships:

- The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA) as the certifying entity for certification of Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialists will process all applications.
- CalMHSA will receive scholarship applicant names from the County BHS liaison.

Scholarship Application Timeline:

May 2 – Nov. 30, 2022	Scholarship applications open for individuals seeking certification under the legacy process. *See note below.
July 1 – Nov. 30, 2022	Scholarship applications for individuals seeking initial certification, not through the legacy process.
December 31, 2022	Applicant must be registered for the exam prior to December 31, 2022. Expired scholarships will be forfeited and considered expired/invalid. No extensions will be granted for expired scholarships.

*Note: Individuals must be employed as a peer as of 1/1/2022.

For more information visit the certification program website at CaPeerCertification.org.

