

Peer Personnel Training and Placement Program

HCAI Health Workforce Development
January 21, 2026

Agenda

Housekeeping & Introduction

Christopher Roina, Communication Analyst, Operations Unit

Welcome & Overview

Clinton Ramstad, Program Manager

Peer Personnel Program

Mo Arshadi, Program Officer

Questions & Answers

Christopher Roina, Communication Analyst, Operations Unit

Closing Remarks:

Clinton Ramstad, Program Manager

Housekeeping and Introduction

- This webinar is hosted in Zoom, if you're not familiar with the platform, you can find the camera, microphone, chat, and view controls in the menu bar at the top of your screens.
- The mic and chat options will be open for asking questions during the Q&A session, which is at the end of this webinar.
- This webinar will be recorded and will be available within 7-10 business days.



Opening Remarks & HCAI Overview

Clinton Ramstad, Program Manager

HCAI's Vision and Mission



Vision

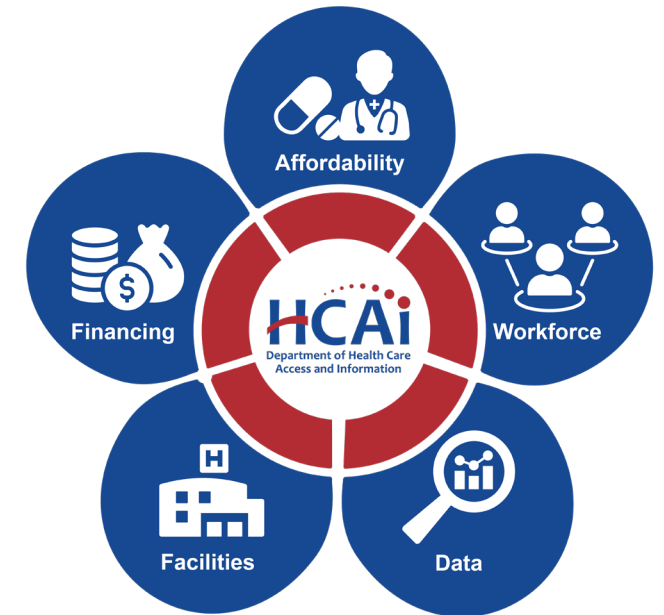
A healthier California where all receive equitable, affordable, and quality health care.

Mission

HCAI expands equitable access to quality, affordable health care for all Californians through resilient facilities, actionable information, and the health workforce each community needs.

HCAI Program Areas

- **Facilities:** Monitor the construction, renovation, and seismic safety of California's hospitals and skilled nursing facilities.
- **Financing:** Provide loan insurance for non-profit healthcare facilities to develop or expand services.
- **Workforce:** Expand and diversify California's health workforce for underserved areas and populations.
- **Data:** Collect, manage, analyze, and report actionable information about California's healthcare landscape.
- **Affordability:** Improve health care affordability through data analysis, spending targets, and measures to advance value. Enforce hospital billing protections, and provide generic drugs at a low, transparent price.



HCAI Health Workforce Approach and Strategy



HCAI enables the expansion and development of a **health workforce that reflects California and addresses supply shortages and access to care**. We do this by administering programs and funding and publishing actionable data about California's health workforce and training.



Focus Our Programs in Four Areas

Develop, support and expand a health workforce that:

- Serves medically underserved areas
- Serves Medi-Cal members
- Reflects and responds to the needs of California's population

Offer programs that provide financial support for:

- Organizations building the workforce pipeline
- Organizations expanding educational capacity
- Individuals pursuing health careers
- Organizations supporting providers and addressing retention

HCAI Peer Personnel Program

- Funds public, private, and nonprofit organizations, including faith-based and CBOs, for training and support that facilitates the training and placement of peer personnel.
- Peer personnel are individuals with lived experience as a mental/behavioral health services consumer, family member, and/or caregiver placed in designated peer positions.
- Applicants must provide training to peer personnel that meets the 80-hour training requirements under the DHCS Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification Program.
- There is no service obligation with this program.

Peer Personnel Program Current Cycle

Event	Date
Application Cycle	January 9, 2026 – March 6, 2026
Grant Period	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2026
Available Funds	\$6,000,000.00

Program Components Overview

- **Recruitment & Outreach:** Target individuals with lived experience reflecting community cultural and language needs.
- **Career Counseling:** Individualized career plans and workforce advancement guidance.
- **Training:** 80-hour DHCS Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist Certification-aligned training.
- **Placement & Support:** Employment or volunteer placement with six months of post-placement support.

Training & Certification Requirements

- Participants must complete DHCS-approved 80-hour Peer Support Specialist training.
- Training must be delivered by a DHCS-recognized provider or approved partner.
- Certification issued by CalMHSA after training completion and exam passage.
- Certification number must be reported once available.

Placement & Performance Expectations

- Placement includes paid or unpaid peer personnel positions.
- Programs must place at least 80% of participants to receive full placement funding.
- Employers are responsible for identifying and funding peer positions.
- Placement success is a core performance metric.

Award Amount & Funding Request Considerations

- The maximum award per organization is \$1,000,000.00.
 - You are not required to request the full amount
- Applicants should request only the funding necessary to implement their proposed program.

Allowable Budget Categories

- Recruitment & Outreach (5% or less)
- Career Counseling (20% or less)
- Training (40% or less)
- Financial Assistance (10% or less)
- Placement (35% or more)
- Support (20% or less)
- Evaluation (5% or less)
- Indirect Costs (10% or less of total direct costs)

Grant Application Resources

DHCS Peer Support Specialist

Program overview, certification, and policy guidance

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/Pages/Peer-Support-Services.aspx>

CalMHSA Approved Training Providers

List of approved Medi-Cal Peer Support training providers

<https://www.capeercertification.org/training-for-medi-cal-peer-support-specialist/>

Peer Personnel Grant Guide

Program requirements, eligibility, funding, and scoring criteria

<https://hcai.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-27-Peer-Personnel-Grant-Guide.pdf>

Technical Assistance Guide

Application tips, common questions, and reporting guidance

<https://hcai.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-27-Peer-Personnel-Technical-Assistance-Guide.pdf>

Online Application Portal

Submit and manage your 2026 Peer Personnel application

<https://funding.hcai.ca.gov/>

Behavioral Health Programs (BHP)

Questions?

Contact: BHPprograms@hcai.ca.gov



Questions and Answers

Chris Roina, Lead Communications Analyst



Closing Remarks

Clinton Ramstad, Program Manager

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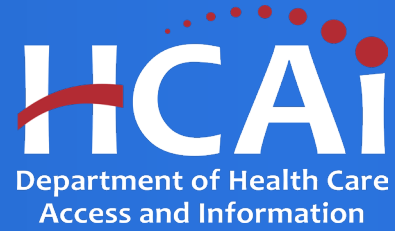


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Thank You!

For further questions, please email

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