

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Palo Alto Health Care System
3801 Miranda Avenue
Palo Alto, California 94304**

**INTERPROFESSIONAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN
PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION and RECOVERY-ORIENTED
SERVICES**

**For Care of Veterans
Who Experience Serious Mental Illness**

(SOCIAL WORK ANNOUNCEMENT)

The VA Palo Alto Health Care System is pleased to announce openings for the 2024-2025 academic year of its Interprofessional Fellowship Program in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery-Oriented Services for Veterans with serious mental illness. The Fellowship Program is a state-of-the-art, clinical training program that focuses on the theory and practice of psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery.

Individualized, mentored clinical and research training is combined with a curriculum that emphasizes a comprehensive psychosocial rehabilitation approach to service delivery, education, and implementing change in a mental health care setting. Fellows will work with Veterans with serious mental illness, including schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder, major depression, or other psychoses and receive training in delivering a range of evidence-based practices. Veterans may also have co-morbid diagnoses, such as PTSD, substance use disorders, depression, and anxiety. The purpose of the Interprofessional Fellowship Program is to develop future mental health leaders with vision, knowledge, and commitment to transform mental health care systems in the 21st century by emphasizing functional capability, rehabilitation, and recovery.

Applications are solicited across a range of disciplines (including psychology, psychiatry, nursing, and social work). Application and position details vary across disciplines.

Applications for Social Work candidates will be open until March 1, 2025. E-mailed applications are required.

Program Description

This is a one-year fellowship program which starts September 08, 2025. The program involves training in multiple domains relevant to interprofessional psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery-oriented services (PSRR) models of care. These domains include:

- Conceptual/theoretical recovery framework of treatment for individuals who experience severe mental illness.
- Interpersonal Competencies (e.g., facilitating personal change for clients and communicating with family members).
- Professional Role Competencies (e.g., working ethically, learning laws, fostering the recovery process, aiding in conflict resolution).

- Community Resources (e.g., linking to community resources, matching clients with entitlement programs and legal resources as needed).
- Assessment, Planning, and Outcomes (e.g., facilitating development of goals, evaluating progress in reaching goals, reassessing needs).
- Systems Competencies (e.g., advocating for needed policy changes, systems changes, system integration, and better access to public resources).
- Interventions (e.g., motivational, and cognitive/behavioral practices including skills teaching, promoting client problem-solving capabilities, encouraging client participation in community and social activities, encouraging leadership, and instilling hope).
- Diversity (e.g., identifying one's own biases, assessing cultural factors relevant to treatment, teaching skills for overcoming cultural barriers).

The emphasis of the fellowship is to promote the development of clinician leaders and teachers capable of providing state-of-the-art, interprofessional psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery care that meets the PSR standards developed by The Joint Commission and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (PRA) and community integration standards defined by CARF. More specifically, the Fellow will strive to: Promote continuity of care; engage with the whole person; foster hope, self-esteem and empowerment; encourage advocacy, peer support and self-help; support consumer-identified community goals; promote education, role models and self-determination; encourage natural social supports and resources; teach life, stress, and symptom management skills; develop partnerships with consumers, families, caregivers, and the community organizations; and facilitate community-based normative experiences (educational, vocational, living and leisure). Fellows are expected to promote this approach to working with Veterans living with chronic serious mental illness.

Clinical Training sites include Inpatient Psychiatric Services, Menlo Park/San Jose Mental Health Clinic, Mental Health Intensive Case Management Program, and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Recovery Center.

Fellows will provide effective assessment, intervention, and interprofessional service delivery as an integral member of teams that share decision-making, treatment planning and implementation, addressing the range of strengths, limitations and barriers for Veterans who experience severe mental illness. Teaching and leadership skills necessary to train PSRR interprofessional leaders of the future are emphasized. The most important learning will come during direct involvement with clients, families, and clinical staff in the provision of care. Fellows will have the opportunity to function in multifaceted roles as group and individual therapist, consultant, teacher, and researcher.

A rigorous but flexible approach to training will be taken, accommodating different personal goals, and learning styles in addressing the domains and standards listed above. Specific goals will be developed with the assistance of core Fellowship faculty and preceptors. The Fellows rotate through various treatment settings emphasizing the continuum of care. Fellows are encouraged to use current literature on empirically supported assessment and treatment in planning and delivering services. They will attend seminars and conferences and have opportunities both to teach and learn from each other. They will have access to research training resources, and they will be encouraged to participate in existing work or initiate their own projects. Fellows have the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational and professional development activities including clinical supervision for licensure.

Education Dissemination Project

Fellows are required to develop and implement an "Education Dissemination Project" to enhance the education of health professionals and the quality of care provided to Veterans at their respective fellowship sites. The projects enhance the psychosocial rehabilitation beyond the training site. The projects focus on a variety of dissemination efforts such as developing continuing education or research conferences for health professionals, curricula for health professions training programs, patient education materials, or clinical demonstration projects. Fellows are also encouraged to take leadership roles by developing didactic projects and disseminating educational materials through a variety of efforts (e.g., planning regional invitational meetings, developing a training website) to educate health professionals and advance psychosocial rehabilitation training and collaboration.

Stipend and Benefits

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Fellowship is a year-long, and usually include up to four full-time fellow positions. The post-Masters Social Worker stipend for academic year 2025-2026 is \$50,986. Vacation, sick leave, and authorized leave for conferences are available; health insurance benefits are also included. Malpractice claims are covered, and no additional professional insurance needs to be purchased.

Requirements

U.S. citizens who possess a MSW Degree from a School of Social Work accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. Preference will be given to candidates with prior PSR training or experiences working with individuals who experience severe mental illness, but neither are requirements.

Application Deadline = 01 March 2025

Application materials are listed below and are to be uploaded to this link:

https://vapahcs.gov1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_897aWxIXbx1BeZg

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Application Materials Required

1. Curriculum Vita.
2. Three letters of recommendation, including one from a current or recent clinical supervisor.
3. One clinical work sample that incorporates a treatment plan or treatment summary.
4. A self-assessment narrative.

Instructions for completing Self-Assessment:

Write a narrative no longer than 2 pages in length that addresses questions below. Feel free to refer to the domains and standards listed in this announcement.

1. What limitations do you see of the medical model of treatment for individuals who experience severe mental illness?
2. How do you currently conceptualize a psychosocial rehabilitation model and recovery-oriented services for individuals who experience severe mental illness?
3. What skills, experiences, and knowledge do you already have that support a psychosocial rehabilitation and recovery-oriented approach?
4. What skills, experiences, and knowledge do you want to obtain to further your learning about PSR/recovery-oriented services?
5. How do you see yourself implementing PSR/recovery-oriented services after completing this Fellowship?

Applicants are strongly encouraged to explore community and academic resources for PSR and Recovery Oriented Mental Health Services for individuals with serious mental illness as part of completing their applications. Suggested websites for this purpose include:

<https://www.psychrehabassociation.org> and [Recovery Support Tools and Resources | SAMHSA](#) (Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement of these agencies or their products.)

Application questions should be submitted via email to:

Katy Gominger, LCSW
Email: Katy.Gominger@va.gov

Application materials should be uploaded to the link:

https://vapahcs.gov/qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_897aWxIXbxlBeZg