

Counseling Partners of Los Angeles

Mental Health Counseling with Children and Adolescents

CPLA is a supportive community of dedicated counselors who are passionate about bringing mental health services to young people. By working with us you will heal hearts and create brighter futures while developing your own voice and skills as a clinician. Please consider joining our team by sending required materials to apply@counselingpartnersofla.org!



Background

CPLA is a 501C3 non-profit organization founded in 2012 to provide at-risk students in **underserved communities of Los Angeles** with high quality, **school-based mental health support services**, provided by exceptional clinician “counselors” who build relationships with and work collaboratively in partnership with student clients, parents and school administrators.

Mental health counseling services, free to students, are delivered by **passionate volunteer counselors** who provide essential and accessible support services students need in order to grow toward their full potential emotionally, intellectually, morally, & socially. CPLA believes that consistent oversight and strong supervision of counselors are critical components in achieving success for students served and to best support the training and growth of our counselors.

Message to Applicants

We wish you the best in pursuing your goals and completing your education. If you join the CPLA team, we promise that we will be as committed to your success as clinicians every day as much as we are for the students you will serve. We believe we offer an excellent training experience, we also realize that there are many opportunities with other great agencies and organizations, so we thank you for considering CPLA. - *The CPLA Team.*

About the Practicum

Overall Time Commitment:

Counselors provide mental health therapy at partner schools during the traditional school year, usually **August thru June**. Some spots may be available to work **January thru December**. There is a 7-week break in the summer for those who work in the January through December cohort. A minimum commitment is the equivalent of one school year.

Weekly Commitment:

A CPLA commitment is to provide counseling at an assigned school site **two school days per week from 7:30 am to 3:00 pm for a minimum of one school year** as well as all assigned clinical supervisions each week, based on university and licensing requirements. You will need to work 3 days if you have relational hours to fulfill. Counselors also attend 5 scheduled training meetings held throughout the year on Sunday mornings. Transportation via car to school sites is encouraged as public transportation can be challenging. Please let us know if you do not have access to a car.

School site counseling days:

CPLA counseling site assignments are **typically 2-day positions**. We may provide 3-day placements if university direct hours requirements indicate the need. School site hours are 7:30 to 3:00. To best serve our students and schools, **work days generally cannot be consecutive**. Examples of typical school site schedules are Mondays and Wednesdays or Mondays and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays or Tuesdays and Fridays, depending on the needs of each school site and our openings.

Clinical Supervision:

Clinical supervision sessions typically take place on **Zoom**. CPLA provides **group supervision**. If required by a university/program, there are limited opportunities for individual/triadic supervision. Typically, counselors attend clinical supervision groups after school, from 4:00 to 6:00 on a day they have worked at their school site. We also offer some mid-day and Saturday supervisions. CPLA clinical supervisors fulfill the BBS requirements of MFT trainees and associates. **Trainees attend one supervision session for each CPLA workday.**

BBS Hours:

In one school year with us, you can expect to accrue approximately **700- 900 total hours, with 250-300 being direct client hours**. You will accrue approximately 60 to 120 group supervision hours. 48 total training hours are offered. Included in your total hours are Client Centered Advocacy hours, workshop hours, and note taking hours. If you are interested or if it is required for your program, you may have an opportunity to conduct group counseling at the school as well.

Training Days:

For counselors starting in August, there is an initial **3-day mandatory training** that takes place in early August from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Counselors begin placements mid-to-late August. For January starts, the initial training will take place in early January and placements will begin the following week. There will also be 5 trainings on Sunday mornings throughout the year for both August and January starts.

School Placements:

If you are offered a spot and accept, we will place you at a school that works for you, keeping in mind where you live, where you attend school, the supervision site and other commitments you have, and also based on availability at the time you are hired. While owning a vehicle is not required, we expect you to have access to a reliable means of transportation to access your assigned school site.

This year **CPLA serves 48 schools in DTLA, Central LA, East LA, South LA, San Fernando Valley, Downey, Bellflower, Long Beach and the South Bay.**

Placement Decisions:

If hired, you may not be assigned a specific school site until shortly before you start. **We assign a school according to 1) location (we do our best to place you at a school within a 15 mile radius of your home) and 2) which school site we think would be the best fit for your goals and the needs of the school.** Because we are working with multiple schedules, we appreciate your flexibility and patience until we make a final placement decision.

If you are ready to pursue a traineeship or associateship with CPLA at this time, read below!



The key interview period for Practicum Placements is February through March.

****Candidates applying for Practicum Placements should apply immediately****

(CPLA has selected openings for January. Interviews for those positions take place in October & November.)

Please email apply@counselingpartnersofla.org with the following information:

Information to Include in Application

- Provide the best phone number, email and complete current address (including apt#) in your email
- List all days each week (Monday-Friday) you would be available to work for us for your practicum. The more days that you can be available, the better are your chances for placement.
- Provide the days (Monday-Friday) between 9:00 & 3:00 you usually would be available to interview.
- Provide us with the specific clinical supervision requirements for your degree/status (weekly, group)
- Provide us the month and year of your anticipated graduation date (example: 6/2024)
- Provide the following information regarding experience hours needed (as required, as applicable):
 - Direct (clinical) hours
 - Total hours
 - Relational hours
 - Group hours

- Tell us the address/geographical area you plan to be living next August (our sites are all over LA) as sometimes the address on your application/resumes are mailing addresses and not where you reside.
- List additional languages besides English you speak and your fluency level.
- Provide 3 references with phone and email contact information, how long they have known you and in what capacity. Ideally they are professional but they can be personal. Please indicate if professional or personal. Generally we contact references after interviewing a candidate but we may contact them in advance.
- *Provide a small photo (so we can remember you!).
- *Provide the date that you can begin working with us. If applicable, please verify (with your university) when you can begin working and /or accruing hours towards licensure.

AS ATTACHMENTS TO YOUR EMAIL:

*Attach (as a file) your resume (or CV).

- *Attach (as a file) a letter stating your current professional goals and how some of the important experiences in your life have influenced you and make our organization a good fit for your goals (please be specific). These experiences may be people, events, and/or cultural influences that have brought you to this moment/graduate school. *This will help us to get to know you and your dreams for your future.*

Upon review of your application, we will contact you to arrange an interview if there is a potential position for you. We appreciate your interest in working with us at CPLA!

Send application to apply@counselingpartnersofla.org

**Regarding relational hours, if this is a requirement of your program....we would need you to work three days with us to accrue the needed amount of hours. If three days is not an option, we would happily consider you at this time if CPLA can be a secondary site and/or if you can receive triadic/individual supervision and/or relational hours at a different/secondary site.*