

The Sacramento County Office of Education and the Sacramento County Department of Health Services will expand their successful School-Based Mental Health and Wellness Career Pipeline Program. Project activities include recruiting full-time undergraduate students to train as Near Peer Mentors/Peer Specialists with paid internships where they will gain hands-on experience providing mental health and wellness and mentorship services to K-12 students in a school setting; supporting Near Peer Mentors/Peer Specialists to pursue a master's in social work (MSW), including the option to jointly pursue the Pupil Personnel Services Credential (PPSC), or marriage and family therapy (MFT); and providing a Graduate Clinical Internship to full-time MSW and MFT Social Work students with the opportunity to be hired as a full-time Associate Clinician, where they can acquire hours toward their mental health license and be placed in a K-12 school.

These earn-and-learn internship opportunities provide paid training, support services (transportation, certification testing fees), and professional development workshops enhancing their skills and abilities. Every intern is paired with a Mentor and supported throughout their internship with multiple levels of staff support. The vision of the Schools as Centers of Wellness initiative is to hire 360 clinicians in Sacramento County schools within 5–7 years.

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### TARGET POPULATION

This project will serve diverse young adults ages 18-24 with lived experience and participants from underserved communities.

### PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- 60 Peer Specialist Interns will earn \$19.60/HR for up to 500 hours during the school year.
- Peer Specialist Certification and skill-based group trauma intervention training and obtain certification.
- 30 Graduate Clinical Interns will be paid a \$12,500 stipend for up to 500 hours during the school year; will complete industry recognized.
- Develop 90 new workers helping to address the current labor shortage in the Mental Behavioral Health field.
- 60% of the Peer Specialist and Graduate Clinical Interns will be placed in employment helping to address the worker shortage along the continuum of occupations in the Mental Behavioral Health field.

### KEY PARTNERS

- Sacramento Office of Education
  - Sacramento County Department of Health Services
  - The My Brother's Keeper Sacramento, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation
  - Pro Youth and Families
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