



**San Francisco
Department of Public Health**

DHRPSC0004800: Peer Programs

Department Project Manager: Tracey Helton MPA, Program Manager

DPH Division – Section: BHS JEDI (Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion)

Civil Service Commission

June 01, 2026

PSC REQUEST OVERVIEW: MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT PROGRAMS

- **Scope of Services:**

- (1) Peer Health and Advocacy services, which works to support peers/consumers of mental health services and their families

- (2) Community Drop-In Services, which provide drop-in and resource support service centers throughout the City in order to offer multiple entry points and allow easy access to services

- **Need of Services:** The hiring of those individuals with "lived experience" is required by Mental health service act funding. The programs provide jobs for "peers" as well as counseling/support services for individuals with mental health challenges.

- **Service Delivery Locations:** These services take place across San Francisco with the bulk taking place in the Tenderloin and SOMA.

- **Service Delivery Timeline:** Services are ongoing.

- **Clients to be Served:** These services have emphasis on services for those who are unhoused, services that target clients with severe mental illness who are Black/African American, Latino/a, Trans and non-binary individuals, and socially isolated older adults, but no is turned away.

WHY THIS PSC SUPPORTS DPH'S MISSION

- **Background and Service History:** The passing of the Mental Health Services Act required that a percentage of revenues be used to hire, educate, and train individuals with "lived experience", known as peers, to work within the mental health system. Peer counseling is an evidenced based practice that provides critical services to hard-to-reach individuals that may we wary of traditional mental health service providers. Peers use their lived experience to build connection and assist clients with everything that a licensed clinician may not be able to accomplish.
- **Why Contracting is the Right Tool for This Need:** Without a current mechanism to hire those with lived experience, DPH needs a partner who can hire, educate, and train those who have experience in the mental health system. There are future opportunities for this work to move to in house as the requirements for work as a peer have become standardized by the state of California in the past two years. Discussions internally at BHS have started for a plan to create a peer classification as a result of a follow up from May 5th CSC. There are currently 158 individuals in San Francisco that have an active peer certification.
- **How This Supports DPH Programs:** Peers provide support services that are culturally relevant and tailored to the individual needs of clients needed mental health services. They are used both in clinic settings and in the field. They provide things like patient navigation, group and individual counseling, and work within the community setting.
- **PSC Amount:**
 - **Previously Approved Amount:** \$53,642,000 **Increase Amount:** \$86,156,727 **Total Amended Amount:** \$139,798,727
- **PSC Duration:**
 - **Previously Approved Duration:** 138 months **Duration Increase:** 24 months **Total Amended Duration:** 162 months



THANK YOU

