

Are you a Chaplain interested in Community Mental Health?

Considering a career of scholarship and program development?

**Interprofessional Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation
and Recovery-Oriented Services
VA Connecticut Healthcare System, West Haven, CT**

Program Overview

The post CPE fellowship provides one year of postgraduate education, clinical learning and research opportunities to eligible physicians and associated health professionals (including chaplains, occupational therapists, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers). Mentors of national stature provide guidance to fellows in rich learning environments. Graduates are expected to be role models in leading, developing, conducting, and evaluating innovative clinical care in health issues pertaining to psychosocial rehabilitation and community mental health. Based at the nationally recognized Errera Community Care Center of VA Connecticut, multidisciplinary mental health professionals provide an array of community-based rehabilitative programs including day and crisis intervention programs (for individuals struggling with mental illness and/ or substance abuse disorders, homelessness, and/or aging), vocational programs, housing programs, homeless outreach and engagement, advocacy and clinical case management programs. Our program has a strong commitment to training fellows about social justice and advocacy. The curriculum will focus upon the development of skills in leadership and scholarly work and will comprise contact with faculty mentors with wide-ranging interests in community mental health. Fellows will be undertaking innovative outcome-based work and facilitating the transformation of the national VA mental health care system from a traditional, hospital-based system to an information-driven, community-based system whose focus is partnering with consumers within their natural environments. Fellows attend weekly theoretical and applications seminars and receive clinical supervision.

This is a full-time one-year commitment starting from September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. Salary for post CPE Fellows is \$50,215. Federal benefits provided. PSR Fellows receive Yale affiliation appointments.

Project

The selected fellow will participate in a variety of interprofessional clinical, psychoeducational and program evaluation efforts. Fellows develop individualized projects with close mentoring from faculty; projects may include research in areas such as peer support, mental health service outcomes, and vocational and neurocognitive rehabilitation; the development of new clinical programs; and consultation with community partners. Many opportunities exist for participating in ongoing collaborative research and scholarly writing. It is expected that at least one of these efforts will be a significant project to which the fellow makes a substantive, independent, and identifiable contribution. The topic of the projects should be of direct relevance to VHA's mission.

Successful completion of a significant project includes presentations of the project at a national conference and locally.

Eligibility

Applicants must have

- Completed a Master's degree or higher in the field from an accredited theological institution
- Completed at least four units of ACPE CPE, preferably during a CPE residency, CPE Level II functioning required
- Be a U.S. citizen
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing a career in chaplaincy with a strong interest in community mental health and the recovery model.

How To Apply

Application: Please submit the following to James Cooke (James.Cooke2@va.gov)

1. A Curriculum Vitae

2. An essay/ Cover Letter of 750 words or less which should provide us with:

describing your reasons for applying for this fellowship; your past experiences working with individuals with serious mental health illness and experiences you have had working in community settings; how you would like to use this training in your professional life; any other information you feel would be appropriate to give.

3. Three letters of recommendation

The **application deadline is April 1, 2024**. Late applications will be considered only for positions that are not filled by applicants who applied before April 1st.