



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Bedford Healthcare System

VA Bedford Healthcare System, Bedford, MA

**Advanced Fellowship in
Psychosocial Rehabilitation
and Recovery (PSR)**

The Advanced Fellowship in Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery (“PSR”) is a flexible, one-year training program that provides comprehensive training in the area of **serious mental illness (SMI)**. We are currently recruiting trainees for three disciplines: a *clinical psychology postdoctoral fellowship*, a *social work post-Masters fellowship*, and a *mental health counseling (LMHC) post-Masters’ fellowship*.

Fellowship training is a combination of a primary clinical placement in one of four SMI-focused clinics (chosen by the fellow) and a secondary placement, the focus of which can be research, clinical, and/or administrative, depending on the training goals of the fellow. In addition, all fellows have the opportunity to learn evidence-based treatments such as CBT for Psychosis and design SMI-focused groups, via participation in POWER, an outpatient SMI specialty clinic. In addition to their cohort of psychology residents, PSR fellows will also **join an interprofessional cohort** of postgraduate trainees that include professions such as social work and mental health counseling, as well as a [cross-site national cohort of PSR trainees](#) across nine VA healthcare sites.

Fellows are afforded considerable flexibility to design and implement clinical and/or programmatic changes that enhance the practice of **psychosocial rehabilitation for Veterans with SMI**. To support this, fellows are actively involved in program development, consultation, and dissemination activities within the VA Bedford medical center, in the community, and nationally via conference presentations. Opportunities for research are available in collaboration with the VISN 1 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Center (MIRECC). Together, these training experiences foster the career development of psychologists serving individuals with serious mental illness (SMI), and will prepare fellows for a variety of career options across clinical, research, and leadership roles.

There are four main components to the PSR Fellowship at VA Bedford:

1. Primary Placement: Each resident can choose a primary placement in one of the programs that serves Veterans with SMI. Possible placements include: 1) Community Residential Care (CRC); 2) Mental Health Intensive Case Management (MHICM) Program which uses the Assertive Community Treatment model; 3) inpatient psychiatric services, or 4) the SMI-Social Work program (Estimated 10/15 hrs per week).

2. Secondary Placement(s): Each resident has chooses one or more secondary placements, with approval from one’s preceptor and the PSR Fellowship Committee. Residents’ work in this placement must be recovery-oriented, but there is considerable flexibility in choosing a placement that aligns with each residents’ training goals. Examples of placements from recent years include: program development within the EPIC/STEER first episode psychosis program, clinical research with faculty in our VISN 1

MIRECC, and clinical placements in a diverse range of services including the Behavioral Addictions Clinic, residential substance use treatment, and outpatient mental health clinic (Estimated 10 hrs/week).

3. Program for Outpatient Wellness, Engagement, and Recovery (POWER): All residents carry a caseload of veterans receiving services through this outpatient program for Veterans with SMI. This can also include development and implementation of outpatient groups for SMI (e.g., Living with Bipolar Disorder, Social Skills Training, etc.). (Estimated 5 hrs/week).

4. Group Project—Program Development/Evaluation & Education Dissemination: All PSR fellows will work together throughout the course of the fellowship year on an interprofessional program development project. Past education/dissemination efforts have included presentations at national conferences and presentations of project evaluation results to the hospital’s program managers and staff of recovery-oriented programs. In addition, fellows will present their work to other PSR faculty and trainees across the Nation as part of the virtual cross-site seminar series (Estimated 2-3 hrs/week).

In addition to the above, residents are afforded considerable flexibility to design and implement clinical and/or programmatic changes that enhance psychosocial rehabilitation principles and practice. Residents are seen as “change agents” within the medical center’s psychosocial rehabilitation-oriented programs. As such, they often engage in consultation, program evaluation, and program development in their individual placements, within the larger medical center, and in the community.

Psychology Postdoctoral Applicants, Please Contact:

Andrew Peckham, PhD, Co-Director of PSR Fellowship & Lead Contact for PSR Postdoctoral Residents

Andrew.Peckham@va.gov or (781) 687-4329

Application Information:

Please use the APPA CAS Application Portal to submit all materials, including Cover Letter, CV, and Letters of Reference. We are listed in the UPPD as: Clinical Psychology Postdoctoral Residency-Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial VA Hospital.

Applications due by **January 5th, 2026**

Social Work and Mental Health Counseling Applicants, Please Contact:

Claudia Kirschner, LICSW, Co-Director of PSR Fellowship & Lead Contact for PSR Social Work and Mental Health Counseling

Application Information:

Please send CV, cover letter and at least two letters of reference to Claudia.Kirschner@va.gov

Social Work Applications: due by **February 13th, 2026**

Mental Health Counseling Applications: due by **April 20th, 2026**