

**California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board
Victim Compensation Program**

**Violence Peer Counseling Rates and Service Limitation Guidelines as set forth by
Government Code Section 13957.9**

Effective March 1, 2015

Reimbursement of violence peer counseling services provided by a service organization for victims of violent crime by the California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board (Board) is based on the definitions, session limitations, documentation requirements, and guidelines (guidelines) set forth below.

These guidelines are subject to the maximum reimbursement provisions of Government Code §13957.9 and other statutes governing the administration of the California Victim Compensation Program (Program) codified by Government Code §13900 et seq.

This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2017, and as of that date is repealed, unless a statute is enacted prior to January 1, 2017 that deletes or extends that date.

Section I. Definitions

1. "Service organization for victims of violent crime" (Service organization) means a nongovernmental organization that meets both of the following criteria:
 - a. Its primary mission is to provide services to victims of violent crime.
 - b. It provides programs and services to victims of violent crime and their families, and other programs, whether or not a similar program exists in an agency that provides additional services.
2. "Violence peer counseling services" means counseling by a violence peer counselor for the purpose of rendering advice or assistance for victims of violent crime and their families.
3. "Violence peer counselor" means a provider who will use his/her life experiences to offer violence peer counseling services. The violence peer counselor must be employed by a service organization for victims of violent crime, whether financially compensated or not.

Section II. Session Limits

1. A violence peer counseling service session is defined as one counseling session lasting 45 to 74 minutes provided by a violence peer counselor.
2. A violence peer counselor may have multiple sessions with a victim in one day at a reimbursement rate of \$15/hour; however, there shall be a 10 session limit maximum on each application.

Section III. Training Requirements

1. Violence peer counselor training must be provided within California and encompass a 40-hour training curriculum that includes, but is not limited to the following:
 - a. The profound neurological, biological, psychological, and social effects of trauma and violence.
 - b. Peace-building and violence prevention strategies, including, but not limited to, conflict mediation and retaliation prevention related to gangs and gang-related violence.
 - c. Post-traumatic stress disorder and vicarious trauma, especially as related to gangs and gang-related violence.
 - d. Case management practices, including, but not limited to, ethics and victim compensation advocacy.
2. All training curriculums must be approved by the Program prior to implementation to ensure that guidelines and requirements have been met.
 - a. If training content is modified after obtaining Program approval, service organization must obtain Program approval for the modified content.
3. Service organizations that employ violence peer counselors shall be responsible for ensuring their violence peer counselors successfully complete training through one of the following options:
 - a. Service organizations may create and implement a training curriculum following the specific guidelines listed within this section.
 - b. Service organizations may utilize training curriculum that was developed by another service organization; or
4. Service organizations may send their violence peer counselors to attend training that is being offered by another service organization. Service organizations that provide the Program-approved 40-hour training curriculum must create a Certificate of Completion that shall be presented to the violence peer counselor upon successful completion of the training.
5. The violence peer counselor's employer shall be responsible for submitting an electronic copy of the Certificate of Completion to the Mental Health Section at the Program for violence peer counselors who have successfully completed the training.
 - a. Dates of service that are provided prior to the Program's receipt of the training Certificate of Completion will not be considered for reimbursement.

Section IV. Violence peer counselor minimum qualifications

1. The violence peer counselor must meet the following minimum qualifications:
 - a. Possess at least six months of full-time experience providing peer support services through employment, volunteer work, or as part of an internship experience, which equates to approximately 1,000 hours.

- b. Violence peer counselors must successfully complete a 40-hour training that was approved by the Program as described in Section III.
2. Any peer violence counselors who use false, dishonest, or misleading statements in order to meet minimum requirements will not be entitled to reimbursement as a violence peer counselor, as recognized by the Program.

Section V. Billing Requirements for Sessions

1. All service organizations seeking reimbursement from the Program must complete and submit billing form VCGCB-VCP-16 for services rendered by a violence peer counselor.
2. All billing forms must contain the violence peer counselor's and his/her licensed supervisor's signature.

Section VI. Level of Supervision

1. Violence peer counselors must be supervised by a licensed marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor.
2. The violence peer counselors and their respective supervisors shall be employed by the same service organization.
3. A licensed marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor who provides supervision for violence peer counselors must maintain a current and valid license through the supervisor's licensing authority.
4. All mental health professionals who are responsible for providing supervision to violence peer counselors must have at least two years of experience working with trauma and victims of crime.
5. A minimum of one hour of supervision per week shall be provided to the violence peer counselor to discuss case work in either a group or individual setting.

Section VII. Service Organization Requirements to the Program

1. Service organizations must provide documentation, upon request by the Program, to establish and substantiate that minimum requirements below have been met:
 - a. Their primary mission must be to provide services to victims of violent crime.
 - b. They provide programs and services to victims of violent crime and their families, and other programs, whether or not a similar program exists in an agency that provides additional services.
2. Service organizations are responsible for meeting training requirements listed in Section III.
3. Service organizations shall maintain documentation of the violence peer counselor's supervision by the licensed marriage and family therapist, educational psychologist, clinical social worker, or professional clinical counselor.

4. The service organization must maintain written documentation that substantiates the violence peer counselor meets the minimum qualifications.
5. Service organizations are required to maintain client case files in the event of an audit or review of services by the Program.

Section VIII. Victims of Sexual Assault

1. Service organizations must provide victims of sexual assault information on how to access a local rape crisis center.