



Position Title: Technical Assistance Specialist
Reports To: Managing Director, Project Director
FTE: 1.0, Full-Time, Exempt Position
Location: This is a remote position.
Collaborations: ABHPC Project Team

The Center for Applied Research Solutions (CARS) is a California 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to building capacity of the behavioral and public health field by promoting evidence-based practice and workforce development. CARS provides training, consultation, and resources for professional development to major initiatives in mental health and substance abuse. Our services support effective programs, policies, and practices at national, state, county, and local agencies, such as in state departments, and county administrations. Our team is committed to improving individual and community health and wellness through evidence-based and culturally responsive practices that address complex social problems and reduce health disparities. We support authentic community engagement, elevation of cultural expertise, and the use of community-defined effective practices. We integrate youth, family, and lived-experiences voices into service development, delivery, and leadership. In all our work, our mission is to foster safe, healthy, and engaged persons and communities.

General Description: Advance Behavioral Health Prevention California (ABHPC) provides no-cost training and technical assistance (TTA) for behavioral health prevention in California. As part of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Big 5 by 2025 initiative, ABHPC focuses on using evidence-based strategies and best practices in primary prevention, as well as utilizes an approach that centers the social drivers of health (SDOH) and a health equity lens. In addition to TTA services, ABHPC supports the implementation of California's Behavioral Health Prevention Plan (BHPP) and California's workforce development program for prevention professionals, Prevention Pathways. ABHPC services are available to all behavioral health prevention providers throughout California, including counties, Tribal partners, coalition members and community-based partners, peers, and more.

Position Description: The Technical Assistance Specialist will provide training, consultation, and content development for a California-based initiative to support capacity building of the substance abuse prevention workforce and implementation of the California Behavioral Health Prevention Plan (BHPP). Initiative services promote planning and implementation of evidence-based, culturally responsive, sustainable prevention interventions from an equity-driven, trauma-informed, and social drivers of health (SDOH) lens. Priority project audiences include county prevention departments, community based-organizations, native community partners,

schools, community members, faith-based organizations, and other groups delivering prevention services.

The Technical Assistance Specialist will provide training and consultation services, plan and conduct listening sessions, and facilitate meetings with stakeholders and partners as appropriate. This individual will work collaboratively with ABHPC team members to identify, design, and provide training and resources that respond to field needs. The field-facing position will contribute to the identification of emerging field trends and topics and will identify and design relevant services for the field. This position will bring their content expertise to other CARS initiatives as time allows and opportunities arise.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

- Develop training content, resources, and templates to support field implementation of the statewide Behavioral Health Prevention Plan (BHPP).
- Design and deliver field trainings and distance learning activities; create training content for dissemination.
- Provide subject matter expertise in primary prevention, especially from the lens of health equity best practices, the social drivers of health (SDOH) and community-based services.
- Provide TTA and consultation in response to requestor needs from behavioral health prevention providers.
- Work collaboratively with ABHPC team members to provide content development support for resource development.
- Stay abreast of relevant substance abuse prevention trends, including field best practices, empirical research, and the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF); synthesize the latest research to be translated for field use.
- Lead and facilitate internal and external meetings.
- Attend affinity spaces and collaborate with other organization TA Specialists.
- Design, moderate, and facilitate field meetings with prevention workforce, stakeholders, and partners.
- Attend state and national conferences as appropriate.
- Engage and support other CARS projects as needed.
- Travel to provide onsite TA services and to attend meetings (as needed).
- Other duties as assigned.

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES (Knowledge, Skills, Abilities)

The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skills, and abilities required. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Knowledge of and commitment to community-centered prevention evidence-based practices.

- Expertise in foundational prevention concepts including the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF), risk and protective factors, evidence-based prevention strategies and interventions, evaluation design and analysis.
- Knowledge of and commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging (DEIB) and health equity considerations in the context of primary prevention.
- Ability to bring anti-racism lens to program development and prevention service delivery. Experience with statewide planning strategies and approaches, including implementation of the SPF.
- Knowledge and understanding of county prevention structures and systems.
- Experience designing and leading focus groups, listening sessions, and/or large collaborative groups.
- Excellent verbal, written, and interpersonal communication skills, including presentation, facilitation, and writing skills.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively with diverse and multi-cultural stakeholders and communities.
- Experience with development and implementation of substance abuse prevention activities a plus

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree or commensurate experience required, advanced degree or postgraduate training or equivalent experience a plus.
- California Prevention Specialist Certification a plus.
- Minimum 7 years' experience in the substance abuse prevention field.

CARS offers a small business environment and an excellent benefit package. CARS provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics. We strongly encourage and seek applications from people of color, including bilingual and bi-cultural individuals, as well as Veterans and people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, and/or transgender. Applicants with lived experience is highly valued.

Salary range: \$85,000.00-\$115,000 annually

CARS offers a small business environment and an excellent benefit package. CARS provides equal employment opportunities (EEO) to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or genetics. We strongly encourage and seek applications from people of color, including bilingual and bi-cultural individuals, as well as members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities.

Salary range: \$85,000-\$115,000 annually. Please note that the salary range indicated in this job description is reflective of the compensation norms in the Northern California region. Actual salary may vary based on factors such as the specific work location, candidate qualifications, and market conditions. We strive to offer competitive and fair compensation based on these considerations.

To Apply: Submit a current resume and cover letter explaining your interest in the position. All materials should be sent electronically to jdante@cars-rp.org. Posting will remain open until filled.