



## Behavioral Health

# Volunteer Services Program

### Background

The San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) volunteer program was created to promote civic and community participation within the department. DBH encourages clients, family members, students and the community to have an active role in the recovery process through volunteering.

### Who can volunteer?

- Anyone over the age of 16. If under 18, a valid work permit is required.
- Anyone with current/past experience with behavioral health issues (your own or that of a family member or friend) and the desire to help others.
- Anyone that wants to have or explore career options in behavioral health.
- Anyone that has a positive attitude and wants to make a difference!

### Student volunteers

High school, vocational, and college students have the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience by volunteering with DBH.

Students can volunteer anytime, including during the summer as a part of their school programs (e.g. Health Academies) and/or as recommended by their teacher.

Students may be placed in administrative offices and/or clinics, and will learn a variety of front and back office tasks.

### How long can you volunteer?

There is no set length of time to volunteer but we ask for a commitment of a minimum of **120 hours**. We will work around your schedule.

### How to become a volunteer?

To become a volunteer you will need to complete a:

- Volunteer application (posted to [sbcounty.gov/dbh](http://sbcounty.gov/dbh))
- Background check
- Fingerprinting
- TB test
- Volunteer orientation along with orientation forms
- Confidentiality training
- Volunteer Tracking System overview training
- Picture for a volunteer badge

### Why should you volunteer?

When you volunteer, you have an opportunity to:

- Obtain hands on training
- Gain valuable work experience and knowledge
- Network
- Make a difference in someone's life
- Make new friends

*Volunteer services is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Proposition 63). DBH complies with applicable federal, civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, age, disability, or LEP.*