



Houston Counseling Association (HCA)

Welcome to the Houston Counseling Association

Houston Counseling Association (HCA) counselors practice in a variety of institutional settings such as schools, state and local agencies, colleges, and universities. Our membership also includes private practitioners, social workers, college students, and retired mental health providers.

Message from the President

Dear Members of the Houston Counseling Association,

As we embark on the 2024-2025 year, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the opportunities and growth that lie ahead. It is an honor to serve as your President, and I am committed to supporting each of you

in our collective mission to enhance the well-being of our community through compassionate and effective counseling.

This year promises to be an exciting one, filled with new initiatives, enriching programs, and opportunities for professional development. Our goal is to create a supportive environment where counselors can thrive, share best practices, and continue to grow both personally and professionally.

We have several key initiatives planned for this year, including:

1. Professional Development Workshops: Offering a series of workshops and seminars led by experts in the field to help you stay updated on the latest counseling techniques and research.
2. Networking Events: Creating opportunities for you to connect with fellow counselors, share experiences, and build a strong professional network.
3. Community Outreach Programs: Expanding our efforts to reach underserved populations and provide counseling services to those in need.
4. Advocacy and Awareness: Promoting the importance of mental health and the role of counselors in our community through various campaigns and events.
5. Member Support: Enhancing our member resources and support systems to ensure you have access to the tools and information you need to succeed.

I encourage each of you to get involved and take advantage of these opportunities. Your participation and input are invaluable to the success of our association. Together, we can make a meaningful impact and continue to elevate the profession of counseling in and around the greater Houston area.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to this important work. I look forward to working with each of you and seeing all that we will accomplish together in the coming year.

Sending you positive Energy,

Laura Ramirez, LPC, CSC, LCDC

President-Houston Counseling Association

2024-2025

About

Our History

The Houston Counseling Association emerged as part of the vocational guidance movement in 1952. Chartered as South Texas Guidance Association, this organization was one of the original branches of the National Vocational Guidance Association. Early membership included those in personnel services primarily from the Veteran's Hospital, South

Texas Junior College, and the University of Houston. Then in 1958, when the school counselor movement became strong, counselors became active in a group and have been responsible for its direction and growth. In 1963, the Association became affiliated with the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the Houston PGA continued to grow and in 1965, membership went over the 100 mark. In 1984, HPGA changed its name to the Houston Association for Counseling and Development to align with the name changes of The Texas Association for Counseling and Development. Again in 1992, after AACD and TACD (now TCA) revised its names, the HACD became the Houston Counseling Association, or HCA, its current name. The organization by-laws were adopted in 1952, amended in 1984, 1991 and 1992 to facilitate the name changes of our national and state affiliate organizations. Currently the association covers a three-county area that includes Austin, Harris, and Waller counties.



The significance of the HCA emblem is symbolic in the outer circle of the total educational process while the inner semi-circle denotes HCA. The counselor characteristics of knowledge, flexibility, and accessibility are portrayed by respective sides of the triangle. The significance of this triangle, however, is two-fold in that it also delineates the acceptance, confidence, and assistance the client seeks. The flames radiate the warmth of the counseling situation. The reciprocal support by the organization to the counselor and client is characterized by the reversible cord. All inclusive, the complete emblem upholds the uniting bond

between counselor and client.

On May 1st, 2012 we began our 60th year. With the collective spirit of our membership, we expect to continue our growth and effect on the education of our counselors and the many they serve.

Leadership

2024-2025 Houston Counseling Association Board Positions

President	Laura Ramirez
President Elect	Dorothy Leahey
Secretary	Lisa Jones
Past President	Dr. Miriam Harris
Treasurer	Anselm Khoo
TCA Senator	Cicelia Como
Elementary School Rep	Bianca Whitaker
Middle School Rep	Vacant
High School Rep	Latanya Franklin
Non School Rep	Cecily Batiste Dawson
At-Large 1 Rep	Dr. Charlotte Rosette
At-Large 2 Rep	Ashantia Wolfe
At-Large 3 Rep	Dr. Jessica Davis
Emerging Leader	Courtnie Ledet
HCA Region 1 Director	Dr. Jennifer Hackett-Stover

Scholarship

Call for Nominations - Recognizing Excellence in Counseling

Dear HCA Members,

The HCA Board is excited to announce the ***Call for Nominations*** for our annual awards, honoring outstanding professionals who have made a significant impact in the counseling field. We invite you to nominate deserving individuals for the following prestigious awards:

1. Counselor of the Year

This award recognizes an exceptional counselor who has demonstrated outstanding clinical skills, ethical integrity, and a commitment to client and community well-being.

2. Advocate for Mental Health Award

This award honors a counselor who has made a meaningful impact in mental health advocacy, policy change, or community outreach, working to break barriers and increase accessibility to mental health services.

3. Leader in the Community Award

This award celebrates a counselor who has shown exemplary leadership in serving the community, addressing mental health disparities, and developing impactful programs.

Nomination Process

To nominate a candidate, please [click here](#) to submit the Google Form for nominations.

Award Nomination Submission Deadline: Friday, March 28th at 11:59 pm

We encourage you to take this opportunity to recognize the exceptional work of your colleagues. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dr. Cicelia Comoa at cicelia.como@gmail.com.

Scholarship Opportunity 2025

Check out the flyer below to learn more about HCA's Scholarship Opportunities. Downloadable applications can be found here: [Word Application](#) and [PDF Application](#).

The poster features a blue and yellow curved background. At the top left is the Houston Counseling Association logo with the tagline "Standards. Research. Advocacy." At the top right is a black button with white text that says "CLICK HERE FOR APPLICATION". The main title "SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2025" is in large, bold, blue letters. Below this is the "ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA" section, which states "You can apply if:" followed by three bullet points. The "APPLICATION REQUIREMENT" section follows, stating "To apply, submit the following:" followed by four bullet points. A "SUBMISSION DETAILS:" section at the bottom provides an email address and the deadline. A circular inset photo shows a smiling Black woman in a professional setting, holding a tablet. At the very bottom, small text provides contact information for the Scholarship Chair.

Houston Counseling Association
Standards. Research. Advocacy.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY 2025

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA
You can apply if:

- Are currently enrolled in a Counseling Certification Program
- Have completed 12 or more hours toward counselor certification
- Maintain a 3.0 or better GPA in counseling certification courses

APPLICATION REQUIREMENT
To apply, submit the following:

- A transcript showing graduate credit in counseling courses
- A letter of recommendation from one of your counseling professors
- A completed HCA Scholarship Application Form
- A 500-word essay detailing your passion for counseling, career goals, and how this scholarship will support your journey.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:
Email your completed application to cicelia.como@gmail.com before the deadline. The application deadline is Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 11:59 pm.

For more information, contact our Scholarship Chair, Dr. Cicelia Como at cicelia.como@gmail.com.

Scholarship Submission Deadline: Thursday, March 27th at 11:59 pm.

You can apply if you..

- Are currently enrolled in a Counseling Certification Program
- Have completed 12 or more hours toward counselor certification
- Have a 3.0 or better GPA in the counseling certification courses

To apply:

- Submit a transcript showing graduate credit in counseling courses.
- Submit a letter of recommendation from one of your counseling professors,
- Complete the HCA Scholarship Application Form and mail it to the address on the form before the deadline.

For more information, you may contact our Scholarship Chair, Dr. Forest Dent Smith: houstoncounselingassociation@gmail.com.

Events

HCA Calendar 2025



The Houston Counseling Association

PRESENTS:

3 hr Ethics CEU

Date: March 31, 2025
Time: 5:00-8:30pm

The Houston Council on Recovery
303 Jackson Hill Houston, TX 77007

Save The Date



Dr. Crystal Collier
PhD, LPC-S

For any questions or inquiries about membership to this Chapter email info@TXCA.org.

Full Chapter Website will launch later this spring.