

# Licensed Professional Counselors: Front Line Professionals Helping Texans in a Variety of Settings



Licensed Professional Counselors (LPCs) are qualified mental health professionals who work in private practice; at schools; on college campuses; in criminal justice facilities; at community clinics, hospitals, nursing homes; and other settings across Texas

Every year the United States economy is losing nearly \$300 billion from its GDP from costs associated with untreated mental health and substance use disorders. These unrealized gains result not only from medical expenses, but also from indirect causes like lost productivity, lost wages, reduced labor supply, and decreased tax revenues. (OCBHFPS, 2025)

Addressing a child's mental health early can provide benefits like improved behavior at home and school and improve their ability to form relationships. (cdc.gov, 2025)

Employees seeking counseling from an LPC see improved performance and productivity increases. Employers can benefit by helping decrease costs related to turnover, burnouts, absenteeism and accident-related disability. (Magellan, 2025)

**29,250**  
LPCs in Texas  
(DSHS, 2025)

## What Does It Take to be an LPC?

LPCs are required by Texas statutes to hold a master's or doctoral degree, pass rigorous licensing exams, complete extensive hours of post-graduate supervision, and pursue continuing education every year they are licensed.

LPCs are front line workers who seek to benefit the mental health of all Texans. Professional counselors are experts in early intervention and helping their patients develop coping skills and emotional regulation. Investing in the work of LPCs can reduce the waits at our state's mental hospitals.

