



PROFESSIONAL  
CERTIFICATE

# HOMELESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST

*EMPOWER EVERYONE  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY*

Specialized training is needed to address our community's number one crisis, and California's top priority. Build on your expertise to help this population achieve better outcomes, and stay on a path to continued success.

- Approaches to homelessness, including best practices and initial engagement
- Methods for detecting and preventing human trafficking in child and adult populations
- Techniques for mental health assessment and approaches to treatment

Generate change. Enroll now.  
[extension.ucr.edu](http://extension.ucr.edu)

**UCR** | Extension  
Professional Studies

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CERTIFICATE FOR

# HOMELESS SUPPORT SPECIALIST

ONLINE PROGRAM

“The Homeless Support Specialist program is a tremendous resource for anyone who works with individuals in homeless situations, or cares about creating solutions. It not only provides practical tips and skills, but also a broad understanding of the issue and the factors contributing to it.”

—Damien O’Farrell  
President and CEO  
Parkview Legacy Foundation

## BUILD ON YOUR PASSION TO GENERATE POSITIVE OUTCOMES

Homelessness now ranks as a top concern of residents throughout California. With increasing resources devoted to addressing homelessness, government agencies and nonprofit organizations alike face challenges in building staff with the expertise essential to driving positive results. In collaboration with subject-matter experts, we have developed this certificate program to equip you with the tools you need to succeed in this demanding field.

Gain a solid understanding of governmental and nonprofit programs and policies, designed to move people out of homelessness. Learn their diverse needs, experiences, and challenges, while honing your ability to assess and document what’s needed to improve their overall position. Be the advocate homeless individuals need. Build on your passion to help generate positive outcomes across this community.

### WHAT YOU’LL LEARN

- Approaches to homelessness, including best practices and initial engagement
- Characteristics, demographics, and perceptions of the homeless population
- Methods for detecting and preventing human trafficking in child and adult populations
- Techniques for mental health assessment and approaches to treatment
- The impact of substance abuse on the homeless community
- Case management methods and models of client advocacy for effective application

### WHO CAN BENEFIT

This program is designed for professionals who work with the homeless community. This includes those working for healthcare or nonprofit organizations, law enforcement, or fire departments. Individuals working in social work, public benefits, health and mental health, criminal justice, and urban planning are also encouraged to apply.

### ADMISSION

Take individual courses or fulfill all of the requirements to earn your UCR Extension award. Whichever you choose, you will gain the personal power that comes through learning new skills. Be assured that you are receiving education that is backed by the UC tradition of excellence.

### HOW TO EARN THIS CERTIFICATE

Individuals must complete a total of 13 quarter units, with a grade of C or better.

WORKING WITH THE HOMELESS POPULATION 3 UNITS

IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS 1 UNIT

FACES OF HOMELESSNESS 2 UNITS

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE HOMELESS POPULATION 3 UNITS

EFFECTIVE CASE MANAGEMENT: CONNECTING TO THE HOMELESS COMMUNITY 2 UNITS

INTRODUCTION TO SUBSTANCE USE AND ABUSE 2 UNITS

- This program can typically be completed within 9 months.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Prices, requirements and courses are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information:  
Phone: (951) 827-4105  
Email: [prodev@ucx.ucr.edu](mailto:prodev@ucx.ucr.edu)  
Website: [extension.ucr.edu](http://extension.ucr.edu)



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