



CPE Residency: Geriatric Spiritual Care through a Jewish lens

January, 2027 – January, 2028 | 3-Unit CPE Residency

A Transformational Year of Clinical and Spiritual Formation

The CPE Residency at Hebrew SeniorLife offers a rare opportunity to spend a full year immersed in the sacred work of spiritual care with older adults. This **three-unit, ACPE-accredited Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE)** residency invites a small group of emerging chaplain Fellows to grow together—clinically, spiritually, and professionally—over the course of 13 months. CPE Fellows move through the three units as a steady cohort, building long-term relationships with patients, families, interdisciplinary teams, and one another.

Under the supervision of **Rabbi Beth Naditch**, Director of CPE at Hebrew SeniorLife, Fellows are guided through a rigorous and supportive learning process that prepares them for professional chaplaincy certification while nurturing their unique spiritual voices.

A Unique Clinical Focus: Jewish Approaches to Spiritual Care with Older Adults

At the heart of this residency is a powerful and timely focus: the **spiritual care of older adults**. In 2025, there were 14.7 million people who were over 80. That number is rising rapidly, and by 2030, will be close to 20 million, outpacing the number of children below the age of 18. Whether Fellows ultimately choose to go into chaplaincy, the pulpit, or adjacent professions, they will be encountering this generation in every area. CPE Fellows learn not only how to companion elders with sensitivity and skill, but also how to support the families and staff who care for them every day.

In this time of global uncertainty, the curriculum of this program will equip students to address issues of universal concern. CPE Fellows will develop fluency in

trauma-informed spiritual care, recognizing resilience, and the complex emotional landscapes of aging and caregiving. The curriculum also invites participants to think systemically – considering how systems shape us and shape the provision of care.

Expressive arts and narrative spiritual care will feature prominently in our learning.

Hebrew SeniorLife is proud to offer CPE which is structured around **Jewish content and process.** As a faith-based non-profit organization, we accept special responsibility for the frailest and neediest members of our community who are most dependent on our care. Education is one of the four pillars on which HSL is founded, as well as being a core Jewish value. Both our care and our teaching are further inspired by the duty of *kioud av v'em*, honoring those who came before us.

One full-time Fellow will take on a particular leadership role in strengthening **LGBTQ+ affirming spiritual care and programming** across the organization, contributing to Hebrew SeniorLife's ongoing commitment to inclusive, dignified care.

Learning in a Living Community of Care

Hebrew SeniorLife provides a dynamic clinical environment where spiritual care is deeply valued. Fellows serve in settings that include long-term care, post-acute rehabilitation, memory care, and community-based services. Hebrew SeniorLife's history began with responding to **the unique needs of a minority community** that had suffered from anti-Semitism and often the traumas of war and immigration. **This history informs our current commitment to serving communities in need,** and we proudly serve people of all income brackets, races, faiths, ethnic backgrounds, gender expressions, and sexual orientations.

At Hebrew SeniorLife, chaplaincy is not peripheral—it is integral. CPE Fellows become trusted members of the spiritual care department and interdisciplinary teams, accompanying patients through the joys, transitions, and sorrows of their life's final chapters while also supporting staff who regularly encounter grief and loss. Our long-term chronic care hospital offers a **complex medical environment in which to learn the skills of health care chaplaincy.**

Our program is **grounded in Jewish spiritual care,** and we warmly **welcome learners of all religious and spiritual traditions.** The interweaving of multiple perspectives is seen as essential to the learning process. Learners are encouraged both to deepen their own tradition and to develop the capacity to offer care across difference.

Structure of the Residency Year

The residency runs from **January 3, 2027 through mid-January 2028**, with three consecutive CPE units spanning the year. The rhythm of the program balances **weekly seminar learning, clinical practice, and individual supervision**, creating an environment of ongoing reflection and growth. Fellows will engage in both classroom learning and clinical work each week, allowing insights from one setting to immediately inform the other through the action-reflection-action-integration model of learning.

One classroom day per week will meet in person, primarily at our Roslindale campus, and we hope to offer the **second classroom session per week virtually**.

Units are planned around major Jewish and American holidays, and the year will include break time in between units and for several weeks during the summer months. A more detailed schedule will be published in Fall, 2026. To the best of their ability, Fellows are asked to plan time away during the scheduled breaks so as to minimally impact the group nature of the learning. The first week and a half of the program will be orientation.

No overnight call is required for our program, and our program is appropriate for those who are *shomer/et Shabbat*.

Each student must be able to document completion of a minimum of 100 education hours, 250 clinical hours, and 50 hours which can be apportioned to either category, for **a total of 400 hours in each unit**, or 1200 hours across the year. Any hours above the required 400 hours in any given unit are considered to be volunteer hours. To receive credit for each unit, students must demonstrate completion of the Outcomes and Indicators for their level of CPE.

Residency Positions and Support

Thanks to the generous support of the Carpenter Foundation, Hebrew SeniorLife is able to offer this residency with financial support for its participants.

One **full-time LGBTQ focused Fellow** will serve 40 hours per week in a combination of clinical work, education, and organization-wide LGBTQ programming and care, with a stipend of **\$40,000** and standard employee benefits, including health insurance.

Three **part-time Fellows** will serve 23 hours per week (inclusive of both education and clinical time) and receive a **\$21,000 stipend**. While these positions do not include benefits, they offer substantial clinical and educational experience within a flexible schedule.

For those interested in a spot in this cohort which includes reduced clinical time per week, we are open to discussing one additional non-stipended spot that would offer two units of CPE instead of three. All education time would still be required for this option.

Qualifications for CPE Residency

Applicants must have completed at least one unit of ACPE-accredited CPE or the equivalent and hold a college degree. Fluency in English is required, along with **strong written and verbal communication skills**. Candidates should demonstrate sound mental and emotional health, as well as the capacity to establish and sustain meaningful relationships. This includes openness to learning, change, and growth, and a **demonstrated aptitude for interpersonal engagement and self-reflection**.

Applicants must be able to **function effectively in a long-term chronic care hospital environment**, maintaining a professional demeanor while remaining **flexible** and responsive to change or stress. They should be **skilled in active listening** and able to offer an **open, nonjudgmental presence** to individuals from diverse ethnic, social, cultural, and spiritual backgrounds. **Sensitivity to the unique histories, concerns, and challenges of Jewish patients and residents, as well as an awareness of the experiences of a multi-national frontline staff, is essential.** Experience working within Jewish communities, LGBTQ+ settings, elder care contexts, or spiritual care environments is preferred but not required.

Application Process, Fees, and Tuition

Applications for the 2027 residency will **open in May, 2026 and close at the end of September, 2026**.

Applications can be found at [this link](#).

Initial interviews will be conducted via Zoom, with finalist interviews held in person with additional members of the Spiritual Care Department and interdisciplinary team.

\$36 application fee, payable online

\$1800 tuition includes all three units of CPE

Individuals with prior CPE experience who are ready to deepen their professional and spiritual formation are encouraged to apply, along with current seminary students, local clergy, and individuals in adjacent or related professions.

We are delighted that you are interested in our program! Please email Rabbi Beth Naditch at bethnaditch@hsl.harvard.edu with program inquiries.