

**Labor Market Analysis: 1220.00/Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology  
Speech and Language Pathology Assistant (Associate of Science (A.S.) Degree)**  
Los Angeles Center of Excellence, January 2023

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**Summary**

<b>Program Endorsement:</b>	<b>Endorsed: All Criteria Met</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Endorsed: Some Criteria Met</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Not Endorsed</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Program Endorsement Criteria</b>			
<b>Supply Gap:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (See comments below)		No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25<sup>th</sup>)</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>		No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Education:</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Emerging Occupation(s)</b>			
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No <input type="checkbox"/>

The Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) prepared this report to provide regional labor market supply and demand data related to one emerging middle-skill occupation:

- **Speech-Language Pathology Assistants (31-9099.01)** Assist speech-language pathologists in the assessment and treatment of speech, language, voice, and fluency disorders. Implement speech and language programs or activities as planned and directed by speech-language pathologists. Monitor the use of alternative communication devices and systems.<sup>1</sup>
  - Data collection is currently underway for *speech-language pathology assistants (31-9099.01)*. Labor market data for this emerging occupations is included under the standard occupational classification (SOC) code for *healthcare support workers, all other (31-9099)*.

Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree.<sup>2</sup> This report is intended to help determine whether there is demand in the local labor market that is not being met by the supply from community college programs that align with the relevant occupations.

Based on the available data, it is unclear whether or not there is a supply gap in the region for *speech-language pathology assistants*, since this is an emerging occupation that does not have its own designated SOC code and corresponding traditional labor market data. However, with only

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<sup>1</sup> [31-9099.01 - Speech-Language Pathology Assistants \(onelibrary.wiley.com\)](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1540-4589.12500)

<sup>2</sup> The COE classifies middle-skill jobs as the following:

- All occupations that require an educational requirement of some college, associate degree or apprenticeship;
- All occupations that require a bachelor's degree, but also have more than one-third of their existing labor force with an educational attainment of some college or associate degree; or
- All occupations that require a high school diploma or equivalent or no formal education, but also require short- to long-term on-the-job training where multiple community colleges have existing programs.

95 annual average awards issued that provide training for this occupation compared to 823 projected annual job openings (even though not all 823 job openings are specifically for *speech-language pathology assistants*, but all healthcare support roles not otherwise specified), it is more likely than not that a supply gap exists. When considering data for *healthcare support workers, all other*, entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties. However, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. **Due to some of the criteria being met, the LA COE endorses this proposed program.** Detailed reasons include:

#### **Demand:**

- **Supply Gap Criteria** – Over the next five years, **823 jobs are projected to be available annually** in the region due to new job growth and replacements, **which is more than the three-year average of 95 awards conferred** by educational institutions in the region.
  - *Healthcare support workers, all other (31-9099)* includes a variety of emerging occupations and not solely *speech-language pathology assistants (31-9099.01)*. **Therefore, the demand data in this report is overstated for speech-language pathology assistants.**
- Over the past 12 months, there were **58 online job postings for speech-language pathology assistants**. The highest number of job postings were for speech language pathologist assistants, speech language pathologists, speech language assistants, speech language therapists and pediatric speech language pathologists.
- **Living Wage Criteria** – Within Los Angeles County, **typical entry-level hourly wages** for *healthcare support workers, all other* are **\$17.94, which is slightly lower than the self-sufficiency standard** hourly wage (living wage) for one adult in the region (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County).<sup>3</sup>
- **Educational Criteria** – The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a **high school diploma** as the **typical entry-level education** for *healthcare support workers, all other*.
  - However, the national-level educational attainment data indicates **42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree.**

#### **Supply:**

- There are **4 community colleges** in the greater LA/OC region that issue awards related to speech/language pathology and audiology, conferring an average of **95 awards annually** between 2018 and 2021.
- Between 2017 and 2020, there were no non-community college institutions in the LA/OC region that conferred awards in programs that train for *speech-language pathology assistants*.

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<sup>3</sup> Self-Sufficiency Standard wage data was pulled from The Self-Sufficiency Standard Tool for California. For more information, visit: <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/california>.

## Occupational Demand

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *healthcare support workers, all other*. In the Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to increase by 11% through 2026. There will be more than 800 job openings per year through 2026 due to job growth and replacements.

NOTE: *Healthcare support workers, all other* (SOC 31-9099) includes all healthcare support workers not listed separately, such as *endoscopy technicians* (31-9099.02), and not solely *speech-language pathology assistants* (31-9099.01). Therefore, the data in Exhibit 1 is overstated for *speech-language pathology assistants*.

**Exhibit 1: Occupational demand in Los Angeles and Orange Counties<sup>4</sup>**

Geography	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	2021-2026 Change	2021-2026 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	3,650	4,023	373	10%	612
Orange	1,207	1,366	159	13%	211
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,857</b>	<b>5,389</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>823</b>

## Wages

The labor market endorsement in this report considers the entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other* in Los Angeles County as they relate to the county's self-sufficiency standard wage. Orange County wages are included below in order to provide a complete analysis of the greater LA/OC region. Detailed wage information, by county, is included in Appendix A.

**Los Angeles County**—The typical entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other* are \$17.94, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$18.10 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$29.14, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

**Exhibit 2: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in LA County**

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	\$17.94	\$22.97	\$29.14

<sup>4</sup> Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

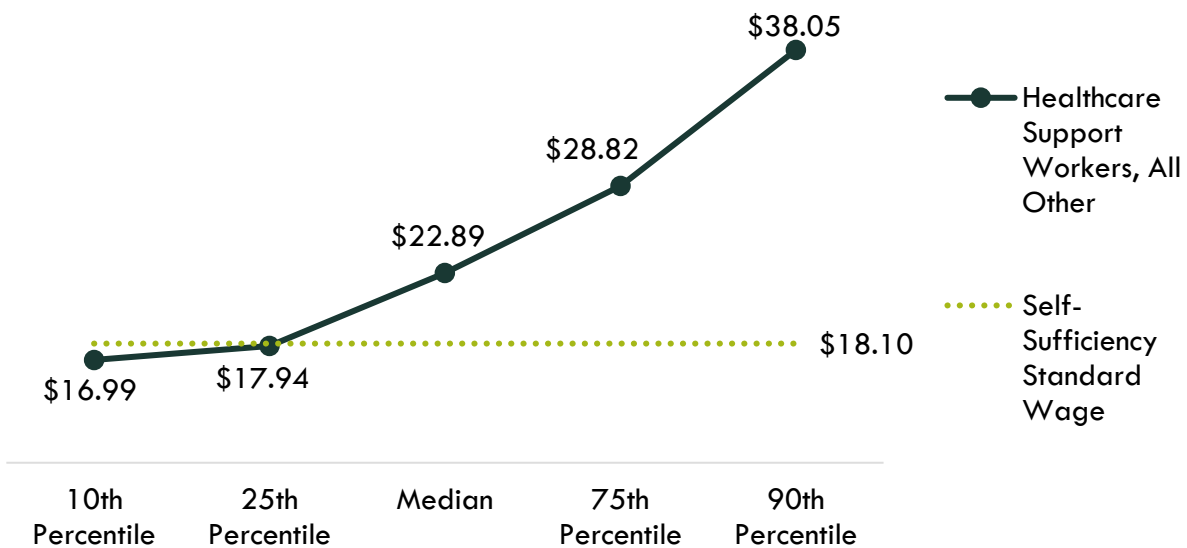
**Orange County**—The typical entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other* are \$17.92, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$20.63 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$28.28, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard.

**Exhibit 3: Hourly Earnings for Occupations in Orange County**

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	\$17.92	\$22.72	\$28.28

On average, the entry-level earnings for the occupations in this report are \$17.94; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$18.10). Exhibit 4 shows the average wage for the occupations in this report, from entry-level to experienced workers.

**Exhibit 4: Average Hourly Earnings for Healthcare Support Workers, All Other in LA/OC**



**Job Postings**

There were 58 online job postings for *speech-language pathology assistants* (31-9099.01) listed in the past 12 months. The highest number of job postings were for speech language pathologist assistants, speech language pathologists, speech language assistants, speech language therapists and pediatric speech language pathologists. The top skills were speech-language pathology, audiology, articulation, treatment planning, and communication disorders. The top three employers, by number of job postings, in the region were Speechful Therapy Services, Integrated Therapy Solutions, and EdLogical Group.

**Educational Attainment**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists a high school diploma as the typical entry-level education for *healthcare support workers, all other*. However, the national-level educational attainment data

indicates 42% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree. Of the 57% of *healthcare support workers*, all other job postings listing a minimum education requirement in the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 21% (7) requested high school or vocational training, 61% (20) requested an associate degree, and 18% (6) requested a bachelor's degree.

## Educational Supply

**Community College Supply**—Exhibit 5 shows the annual and three-year average number of awards conferred by community colleges in the related TOP code: Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology (1220.00). The colleges with the most completions in the region are Cerritos and Santa Ana. Currently, there are no non-community college institutions in the greater LA/OC region that have conferred sub-baccalaureate awards for *speech-language pathology assistants* in the past three years. CSU Long Beach has issued bachelor's degrees and master's degree in this area, and CSU Northridge and Biola University have also issued master's degrees.

**Exhibit 5: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2018-2021**

TOP	Program	College	2018-19 Awards	2019-20 Awards	2020-21 Awards	3-Year Average
1220.00	Speech/ Language Pathology and Audiology	Cerritos	40	28	31	33
		Pasadena	22	24	18	21
		<b>LA Subtotal</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>54</b>
		Orange Coast	15	16	23	18
		Santa Ana	22	25	21	23
		<b>OC Subtotal</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Supply Total/Average</b>			<b>99</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>

## Appendix A: Occupational demand and wage data by county

### Exhibit 6. Los Angeles County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	3,650	4,023	373	10%	612	\$17.94	\$22.97	\$29.14

### Exhibit 7. Orange County

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 <sup>th</sup> Percentile)
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	1,207	1,366	159	13%	211	\$17.92	\$22.72	\$28.28

### Exhibit 8. Los Angeles and Orange Counties

Occupation (SOC)	2021 Jobs	2026 Jobs	5-Yr Change	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Typical Entry-Level Education
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)	4,857	5,389	532	11%	823	High school diploma or equivalent

### Appendix B: Sources

- O\*NET Online
- Lightcast (formerly Emsi)
- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)
- California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, OES
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Management Information Systems (MIS)
- Self-Sufficiency Standard at the Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington
- Chancellor's Office Curriculum Inventory (COCI 2.0)

For more information, please contact:

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