



Labor Market Analysis:

1220.00 – Speech/Language Pathology and Audiology

Speech-Language Pathology Assistant – Associate of Science (A.S.) degree

Los Angeles Center of Excellence, August 2025

Program Endorsement:	Endorsed: All Criteria Met ☐	Endorsed: Some Criteria Met ☒	Not Endorsed ☐
Program Endorsement Criteria			
Supply Gap:	Yes ☒	No ☐	
Living Wage: (Entry-Level, 25 th)	Yes ☐	No ☒	
Education:	Yes ☒	No ☐	
Emerging Occupation(s)			
	Yes ☒	No ☐	

SUMMARY

This report analyzes whether local labor market demand is being met by community college programs aligned with the identified middle-skill occupation¹ or whether a shortage of workers exists. Labor market demand is measured by annual job openings while education supply is measured by the number of awards (degrees and certificates) conferred on average each year.

Based on the available data, there appears to be a supply gap for the one identified middle-skill occupation in the region. While entry-level wages are lower than the self-sufficiency standard wage in both Los Angeles and Orange counties, more than one-third of current workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment.

Recommendation: Due to two of three program endorsement criteria being met, the Los Angeles Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (LA COE) endorses this proposed program.

Key Findings

Supply Gap

- 793 annual job openings are projected in the region through 2028. This number is greater than the three-year average of 121 awards conferred by educational institutions in the region.

¹ Middle-skill occupations typically require some postsecondary education, but less than a bachelor's degree. 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.

- However, the *healthcare support workers, all other* (31-9099) SOC code includes a variety of emerging occupations, including *speech-language pathology assistants*. Since the SOC code does not solely represent *speech-language pathology assistants*, **the number of annual job openings is likely overstated.**
- Over the past 12 months, there were **348 online job postings for speech-language pathology assistants**. The highest number of job postings were for speech language pathologist assistants, school speech language pathologist assistants, speech therapy assistants, therapy services reviewers, and speech language therapists.

Living Wage

- \$21.94 is the typical entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other*, which is lower than Los Angeles County's self-sufficiency standard hourly (\$24.03/hour).²

Educational Attainment

- A high school diploma or equivalent is the typical entry-level education for *healthcare support workers, all other* according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS).
- 43% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree, according to national educational attainment data.

Community college supply

- 4 community colleges issued awards related to speech-language pathology and audiology in the greater LA/OC region.
- 121 awards (degrees and certificates) were conferred on average each year between 2022 and 2024.

Other postsecondary supply

- No other educational institutions in the LA/OC region have conferred sub-baccalaureate awards in programs related to speech-language pathology and audiology over the past three years.

TARGET OCCUPATION

LA COE prepared this report to provide regional labor market and postsecondary supply data related to one emerging middle-skill occupation:

- **Healthcare Support Workers, All Other (31-9099)** All healthcare support workers not listed separately.³
 - **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.⁴

² Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington. (2024). *The self-sufficiency standard for California 2024*. <http://selfsufficiencystandard.org/California>.

³ *Healthcare Support Workers, All Other* (bls.gov)

⁴ *Speech-Language Pathology Assistants* (ONETOnline.org)

OCCUPATIONAL DEMAND

Exhibit 1 shows the five-year occupational demand projections for *healthcare support workers, all other*. In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, the number of jobs related to this occupation is projected to decrease by 8% through 2028. However, there will be nearly 800 job openings per year through 2028 due to retirements and workers leaving the field. It is important to note that the *healthcare support workers, all other* (31-9099) SOC code includes a variety of emerging occupations and not solely *speech-language pathology assistants*. Therefore, the data in Exhibit 1 is likely overstated for the target occupation. The majority of jobs in 2023 for *healthcare support workers, all other* (74%) were located in Los Angeles County.

Exhibit 1: Current employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles and Orange counties⁵

Geography	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	2023-2028 Change	2023-2028 % Change	Annual Openings
Los Angeles	4,558	4,192	(366)	(8%)	586
Orange	1,596	1,474	(121)	(8%)	207
Total	6,154	5,666	(488)	(8%)	793

Detailed Occupation Data

Exhibit 2 displays the current employment and projected occupational demand for the target occupation in Los Angeles County. Positive scores for automation resilience⁶ reflect a lower-than-average threat of the occupation(s) being replaced by automation, while negative scores reflect a greater-than-average risk of automation. The average percentage of workers aged 55+ across all occupations in the Los Angeles/Orange County region is 26%; occupations with a larger share of workers aged 55 and older typically have greater replacement needs to offset the amount of impending retirements. On average, 81% of workers across all occupations in California are employed full-time. Occupations with a lower-than-average percentage of full-time workers may have less employment security but may see increased activity in the gig economy.

Exhibit 2: Detailed employment and occupational demand, Los Angeles County⁷

Occupation	2023 Jobs	2028 Jobs	5-Yr % Change	Annual Openings	Automation Resilience	% Aged 55 and older	% Full Time Workers
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	4,558	4,192	(8%)	586	1.6	22%	38%

⁵ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

⁶ Automation risk is calculated based on the percentage of time spent on high-risk compared to low-risk work, the number of high-risk jobs in compatible occupations, and the overall industry automation risk.

⁷ Five-year change represents new job additions to the workforce. Annual openings include new jobs and replacement jobs that result from retirements and separations.

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 Los Angeles/Orange County region.

Los Angeles County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other* are \$21.94, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$24.03 in Los Angeles County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$30.41, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 3).

Exhibit 3: Earnings for occupation in Los Angeles County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	\$21.94	\$26.56	\$30.41	\$55,200

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Orange County

The typical entry-level hourly wages for *healthcare support workers, all other* are \$22.20, which is below the self-sufficiency standard wage for one adult (\$27.13 in Orange County). Experienced workers can expect to earn wages of \$30.78, which is higher than the self-sufficiency standard (Exhibit 4).

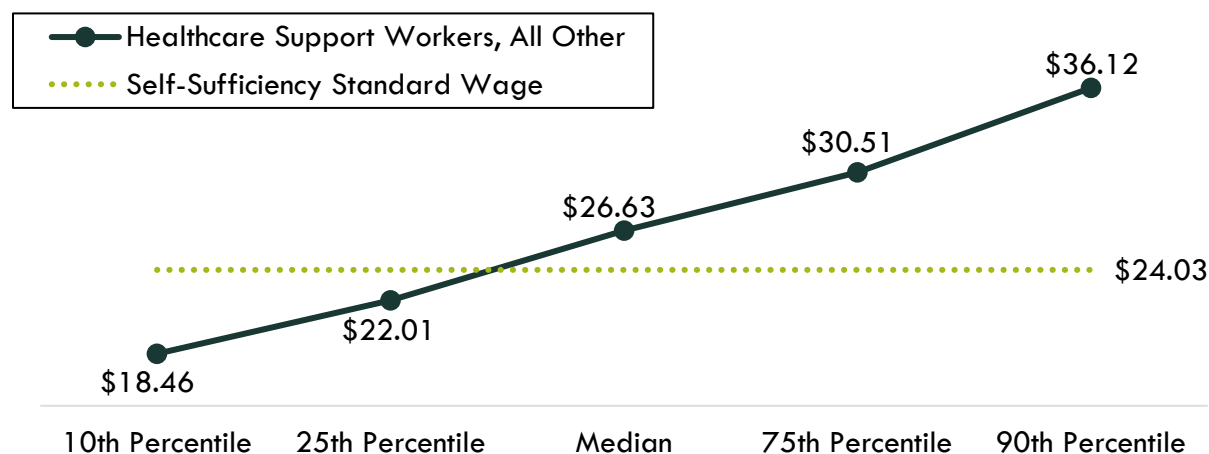
Exhibit 4: Earnings for occupation in Orange County

Occupation	Entry-Level Hourly Earnings (25 th Percentile)	Median Hourly Earnings	Experienced Hourly Earnings (75 th Percentile)	Median Annual Earnings*
Healthcare Support Workers, All Other	\$22.20	\$26.86	\$30.78	\$55,900

*Rounded to the nearest \$100

Across the greater Los Angeles and Orange County region, the average entry-level hourly earnings for the occupation in this report are \$22.01; this is below the living wage for one single adult in Los Angeles County (\$24.03). Exhibit 5 shows the average hourly wage for the occupation in this report, for entry-level to experienced workers.

Exhibit 5: Average hourly earnings for the target occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties



JOB POSTINGS

There were 348 online job postings for *speech-language pathology assistants* listed in the past 12 months in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Job postings were analyzed for the most common job titles, skills, and employers associated with the target occupation in this report (Exhibit 6).

Exhibit 6: Most commonly requested job titles, skills and employers in job postings, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Top Job Titles	Top Skills	Top Employers
- Speech language pathologist assistants - School speech language pathologist assistants - Speech therapy assistants - Therapy services reviewers - Speech language therapists - Speech language assistants	- Speech-language pathology - Treatment planning - Individualized Education Programs (IEP) - Speech therapy - Pathology - Communication disorders	- Soliant Health* - CompHealth* - Amergis* - ProCare Therapy* - Elevance Health - Epic Special Education Staffing* - Sunbelt Staffing*

*Staffing companies

In the greater Los Angeles/Orange County region, 45% of the *speech-language pathology assistant* job postings listed a minimum educational requirement. Exhibit 7 details the number and percentage of job postings by educational level.

Exhibit 7: Education levels requested in job postings for target occupation, Los Angeles and Orange counties

Education Level	Job Postings	% of Job Postings
Bachelor's degree	50	32%
Associate degree	93	59%
High school diploma or vocational training	15	9%

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* (Exhibit 8). However, the national-level data indicates 43% of workers in the field have completed some college or an associate degree as their highest level of educational attainment. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) lists the following typical entry-level education levels for the occupation in this report:

Exhibit 8: Entry-level education preferred by employers nationally, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Occupation	Education Level
Healthcare support workers, all other	High school diploma or equivalent

EDUCATIONAL SUPPLY

Community College Supply

Exhibit 9 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, Santa Ana, and Pasadena.

Exhibit 9: Regional community college awards (certificates and degrees), 2022-2024

TOP Code	Program	College	2021-22 Awards	2022-23 Awards	2023-24 Awards	3-Year Average
1220.00	Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology	Cerritos	35	39	78	51
		Pasadena	27	17	29	24
		LA Subtotal	62	56	107	75
		Orange Coast	15	19	11	15
		Santa Ana	45	19	29	31
		OC Subtotal	60	38	40	46
Supply Total/Average			122	94	147	121

Exhibit 10 displays the community college awards broken down by award type. In this case, the majority of awards issued by community colleges are associate degrees (76%).

Exhibit 10: Community college awards by award type, 2022-2024

Award Type	# of Awards	% of Awards
A.A./A.S. degrees	92	76%
Certificates	29	24%
Total	121	100%

Other Postsecondary Supply

Currently, there are no other postsecondary institutions in the greater LA/OC region that have conferred sub-baccalaureate awards for speech-language pathology and audiology in the past three years. However, there have been bachelor's degrees, postbaccalaureate certificates, and master's degrees conferred in the region under the following CIP Codes:

- 51.0201 – Communication Sciences and Disorders, General (625 average annual awards)
- 51.0203 – Speech-Language Pathology/Pathologist (139 average annual awards)
- 51.0299 – Communication Disorders Sciences and Services, Other (6 average annual awards)

These programs train for *speech-language pathologists* (29-1127), which typically requires a master's degree as the entry-level education level.

CERTIFICATIONS

In order to become a certified speech-language pathology assistant (C-SLPA) through American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), workers must fulfill the following:⁸

- Complete one of the three education pathways
- Complete three 1-hour prerequisite courses through ASHA
- Complete a minimum of 100 clinical field work hours under the supervision of an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist, including direct and indirect clinical contact
- Pass the C-SLPA exam (Score of 162 or above)

Workers must maintain their certification every three years by the completing certification maintenance assessment module, following the ASHA Assistants Code of Conduct, and paying annual certification fees.⁹ Detailed information on C-SLPA certification can be found on the ASHA website.

⁸ [SLP Assistants Certification Pathways \(ASHA\)](#)

⁹ [Speech-Language Pathology Assistant Certification \(ASHA\)](#)

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DATA SOURCES

POWERED BY



- 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)

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