



CPA Collegiate Action Network (CPA CAN)

2023-24 Participant Terms of Reference

PURPOSE

CPA CAN is the leading-edge collegiate leadership program of the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA). It is designed to create opportunities for college students to develop new skills and new ways of engaging their peers around stimulant and opioid misuse prevention and positive mental health across the state of Pennsylvania. The program encourages powerful, thoughtful, and strategic collaboration.

This second year of CPA CAN will leverage the passion, lived experiences, and talents of students who are passionate about solving problems—connecting them to their peers across disciplines, building strategic high-trust relationships, and offering practical skills for enhancing their own lives, their schools, and their communities. Working in partnership with a wide variety of local partners, CPA CAN connects a diverse cohort of students committed to peer-to-peer leadership engagement around opioid and stimulant misuse prevention and mental health issues.

PARTICIPANT EXPECTATIONS

CPA CAN participants will work together to ...

- ▶ Engage in experiences designed around their interests and PA's opioid and stimulant misuse prevention and mental health needs;
- ▶ Help create messages to be used on campuses by utilizing PA's PaStart and PaStop campaigns;
- ▶ Expand the way prevention is defined and addressed on college campuses;
- ▶ Fully explore problems, proposing bold solutions with achievable implementation strategies;
- ▶ Develop and implement a signature project to champion—one that spurs others into action;
- ▶ Regularly share ideas and outputs with CPA's Executive Director; and
- ▶ Advocate for resources, decision-making, and action to implement effective prevention in PA.

Participants can expect to participate 3-5 hours per month from October 2023 to May 2024.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION

Participants in the CPA CAN program will work together as part of an amazing team to change the ways in which prevention is defined and addressed on college campuses across PA. Participants will engage in continuous learning, personal growth opportunities, and deep community engagement.

- ◆ **Support Your Work** — CPA is committed to ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate in CPA CAN. All participants will receive an \$800 honorarium.
- ◆ **Experience Excellence in Every Encounter** — A leader is often recognized for their innovative, outside-the-box thinking and their ability to get things done. As a participant, you will be working with other students who share this unique experience.
- ◆ **Understand Your Personal Leadership Style** — As a student, you have already achieved some measure of success (and no doubt faced difficult issues). CPA CAN will help you apply the lessons you've learned to incredibly difficult-to-solve problems, while acquiring new leadership skills.
- ◆ **Build Enduring High-Trust Relationships** — CPA CAN will create spaces where students can let down their guard, be themselves, and build high-trust relationships with their peers.
- ◆ **Find More Meaning in Your Work** — As students achieve greater levels of success, it can become increasingly difficult to find balance in one's life. Most people want to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They want to make a difference. They want to leave a legacy. CPA CAN will help you achieve that legacy.
- ◆ **Challenge Your Status Quo** — When asked about their success, leaders throughout history have described close and enduring relationships with mentors, confidants, and friends—often those with whom they have significant differences of opinion. CPA CAN has been designed as a space to cultivate and nurture those kinds of relationships; an environment where students push and challenge and argue and debate.



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2023-24 Background & Qualifications

BACKGROUND

The Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) is the foremost voice of prevention in the state of Pennsylvania and engages with inspiring organizations who share a common goal: *to reduce substance misuse and risk-related behaviors among Pennsylvanians*. CPA's mission is to nurture, train, and support the professionals who are doing this essential work—understanding that prevention organizations need leaders with integrity, vision, and the ability to get things done.

CPA CAN is rooted in Common Ground Consulting's LEAD Model,SM which is borne out of a servant leader paradigm and is designed for leaders who are willing to work harder than they have ever worked in service of a goal that transcends personal interests. Entrepreneurial in spirit and team-based in approach, CPA CAN represents an approach to leadership development anchored by the experiences, knowledge, and skills of young people committed to public service and public problem-solving. This program has been designed to support PA college students in crafting advocacy messages and campaigns that will persuade their peers to make thoughtful decisions when it comes to the use of substances and their own mental and physical health—messaging that can be leveraged through PA START and PA STOP.

CURRICULUM & FACULTY

CPA CAN assumes a level of proficiency among its participants when it comes to managing student responsibilities. During this program, you will be given the tools to carry out the project and we will be with you during the entire process. The curriculum focuses on how to bring about strategic change and how to bring a group of people through that change process. Philosophically, CPA CAN recognizes the natural tension that exists between individual development (human potential) and community development (social responsibility). CPA CAN will focus on four key concepts (passion, change, trust, and gratitude) and six core principles to stimulate and cultivate each participant's unique leadership profile, while simultaneously supporting them as they work together to expand the definition of prevention in PA and address the issues important to them.

Discussions will be led by local, national, and international experts from government, the academic community, and the social profit and private sectors. CPA CAN will strive to maintain relevance to local events and priorities and will be constantly evolving its approach to meet the unique and changing needs of students.

CONTINUING SERVICE

In addition to the program curriculum, CPA CAN provides many long-term benefits to its participants. The student network—which CPA CAN members will build for themselves—will be supported by follow-up sessions and related activities for all CPA CAN graduates. Graduates may also have the opportunity to participate in other CPA activities, including Prevention Week and its annual conference. By providing ongoing training, as well as exposure to leaders in the sector and other resources, CPA CAN will assist participants in achieving their career goals.

QUALIFICATIONS

CPA CAN applicants should be outstanding student leaders who are in a position to bring about strategic change within their school communities. A CPA CAN candidate will usually be a student who has some decision making authority in a collegiate organization. Some students from smaller schools may have fewer opportunities, but should still be able to demonstrate some measure of previous leadership experience. Candidates should be committed to prevention and to working in a diverse environment. Applicants should be eager to take on broader responsibilities with the goal of leading prevention efforts on their campus. CPA CAN prioritizes the participation of students of color, women, younger students, and students with untapped leadership potential. Priority will be given to students in their first three years of college, as well as first generation students. Applicants must be a currently enrolled student at an accredited PA college or university.

TO APPLY

Interested applicants should complete an *online* applications [using this link.](#)



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2023-24 Frequently Asked Questions

What is CPA CAN?

CPA CAN is the cutting-edge collegiate leadership program of the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA). It has been designed to create opportunities for college students to develop new skills and new ways of engaging their peers around opioid prevention issues across the state of Pennsylvania. The program will encourage powerful, thoughtful, and strategic collaboration.

Who are the types of candidates who will be selected for the program?

CPA CAN is designed for students who have a passion for addressing and solving campus problems. This is a program for students who are willing to put shared interests above their own. It is a program for students who are interested in advocacy, communications, community engagement, and ending stimulant and opioid misuse. This is a program designed for students who are willing to work to solve real problems.

Who started this program? Who is managing it day-to-day?

CPA CAN is being launched by the Commonwealth Prevention Alliance (CPA) and is a part of the PA Start and PA Stop initiatives. The program is being designed and coordinated by CPA partner, Common Ground Consulting LLC.

What will I learn? How will I grow as a leader?

CPA CAN will focus on key concepts and core principles designed to stimulate and cultivate each participant's unique leadership profile while simultaneously supporting them as they work together to address opioid prevention issues across the state of Pennsylvania. The program will offer access to global expertise, significant problem-solving resources, and state-of-the-art curricula.

Is the program affiliated with the U.S. or Pennsylvania governments?

No. Neither the U.S. or Pennsylvania governments have been involved in designing the architecture of CPA CAN, nor are they involved in day-to-day management. CPA CAN does have primary funding through PA government.

How many leaders will be selected to participate in the inaugural year?

There will be approximately 12-15 student leaders involved in CPA CAN.

Will the program cost me anything to participate? Will I receive per diems or travel reimbursements?

There is no cost for participants to engage in CPA CAN activities. The majority of events and activities will take place online using virtual tools. Travel, food, and lodging costs will be covered if there are in-person gatherings.

Participants who complete the program will also receive an honorarium of \$800.

How much time will be involved?

Participants should expect to spend 3-5 hours per month when school is in session.

Do I need to attend every session?

Yes. While we understand emergencies happen, it is expected that participants will attend each regularly-scheduled CPA CAN activity. Dates for all events will be available at the start of each program year. Absence from scheduled events will be taken very seriously and could result in removal from the program.

Is the program affiliated with any institution of higher learning and is a certificate offered?

The program is not formally affiliated with any particular institution of higher education, but the curriculum is recognized globally and certificates will be offered to participants who complete all program requirements.



CPA Collegiate Action Network (CPA CAN)

2023-24 Participant Application

TO APPLY

Interested applicants should complete an *online* applications [using this link](#).

BE PREPARED TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Background

1. Please attach a copy of your resume, and list any leadership programs in which you have participated.

Experience

2. Please tell us about a previous leadership experience that you've had; what did you achieve in that role?

3. Please tell us about a personal challenge you have faced in the past. Reflect on your role in that situation. What resources and obstacles were present? How did you respond and what would you do differently?

4. CPA CAN participants benefit from exposure to a wide range of perspectives. Participant input is critical to the success of the program. What contribution, in terms of strengths or unique experience, will you bring to the group? What are the issues you want to see addressed?

Leadership

5. List two things that you believe should be done on your campus to prevent substance misuse and address mental health issues. This can also include helping peers that may be struggling with substance or mental health issues.

References

Please list two references that we can contact regarding your application to CPA CAN. One of the references should come from someone at your college or university. The other can be a professional reference.

Please provide their name, relationship to you, telephone number and email address.

1.

2.

If you have any questions, please contact CPA's Executive Director Jeff Hanley:

jeff.hanley@paprevention.org