Sati Center
for Buddhist Studies

Buddhist Chaplaincy for Incarcerated Population
Participant Application

All applications submitted by Dec 1st will receive equal review. We will accept and review applications past this date as space allows.

Please allow yourself some time to complete this application, using a separate piece of paper or document if needed to respond to the questions below. We are looking for reflective responses that demonstrate an interest in learning from every chaplaincy encounter.

Please submit your application as a PDF or Microsoft Word document to BchIP@Sati.Org

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Date of application:
Name:
Personal pronouns (eg. she/he/they):
Address:
Primary phone:
Email:
How do you define your racial and/or ethnic identity? (*optional*):

What is your occupation/course of study?

Do you have previous chaplaincy/spiritual caregiving experience? Please describe briefly and/or attach a resume.

Do you have previous experience in prison, jail or rehabilitation centers? Please describe briefly and/or attach a resume.

Section 1: Motivation & Vision

1. Current Motivation

What draws you to apply for this prison/jail chaplaincy program at this specific time in your life?

2. Anticipated Impact

How do you envision this training benefiting you personally? How do you see it benefiting the individuals and communities you will serve?

3. Long-Term Application

How do you plan to integrate and utilize this training in your life and work moving forward?

Section 2: Spiritual Practice & Professional Boundaries

4. Spiritual Background

Please describe your personal experience with spiritual or meditation practices. Include details about daylong retreats, multi-day retreats, or structured practice periods you have completed. Enrollment requires participation in at least four 7-day retreats of any Buddhist tradition.

5. Multi-Faith Alignment & Boundaries
Chaplains serve individuals from all religious, spiritual, and secular backgrounds. How do you plan to provide care to people whose beliefs differ from your own, and how do you define healthy professional boundaries in a correctional facility?

Section 3: Social Awareness & Institutional Realities

6. Systemic and Societal Awareness
What is your relationship with, or experience regarding, systemic issues like incarceration, racial justice, and institutional violence? How do you feel these experiences will inform your work in this program?

7. Engaging with Pain and Suffering
Chaplaincy requires presence in spaces heavily impacted by trauma and systemic hardship. What is it like for you to sit with people and enter environments that carry deep emotional and systemic suffering?

8. Navigating Challenging Dynamics
In a correctional environment, what types of personalities, behaviors, or situations do you anticipate will be the most difficult for you to work with, and why?

Section 4: Diversity & Inclusion

9. Experiences with Diversity
Describe your experiences navigating diversity in your life (e.g., race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, size, ability). How have you handled differences or conflicts in these areas?

10. Support for Underrepresented Groups
If you identify as part of a population traditionally underrepresented in the western dharma, environmental, or spiritual care spaces, what specific support or resources would help you participate fully in this program?

Section 5: Capacity & Commitment

11. Emotional Resilience & Support
This training and environment can be emotionally demanding. What specific practices, relationships, or networks serve as your personal sources of emotional support?

12. Time and Energy Investment
How do you feel about the time, energy, and emotional commitment required to fully engage with this training?

13. 12-Month Commitment
Do you foresee any personal, professional, financial, or logistical factors (such as relocation, family obligations, or study plans) that might interfere with your ability to complete this 12-month commitment?

All Are Welcome
This training aims to welcome a diverse population. With the intention to dissolve all barriers that perpetuate the suffering of separation, prejudice, and

discrimination, we are dedicated to the inclusion of all races, classes, sexual orientations, gender identities, ages, abilities, cultures, ethnicities, and other social identities.

Tuition: The cost for the twelve-month program is a sliding scale of $2,000 - $4,000. The sliding scale allows participants to choose the level they can support the program and the teachers with. Your generosity is appreciated and will also help provide support for those who need financial assistance. We offer work exchange opportunities and a limited number of scholarships for those who need assistance. Our wish is not to have funds prevent people from participating. If applying for work exchange or scholarship funds, please include in your application a written description of your circumstances and why you are requesting assistance.

Thank you for considering the Sati Center's Buddhist Prison/Jail Chaplaincy Training Program as an opportunity for learning, practice, and service. We appreciate the time and thought you put into completing this application.

Upon completion, please e-mail these materials to BChIP@Sati.Org

Incomplete applications will not be processed until all materials are received.

- Please add to your application a recommendation letter from a Buddhist or other spiritual/religious teacher, mentor, or colleague.
- and pay a $100.00 application fee

(This fee covers the application processing and an interview discussion with faculty.)