



**District of Columbia
Department of Behavioral Health
Peer Specialist Certification Training Program
Application
2024**



Thank you for your interest in the Department of Behavioral Health Peer Specialist Certification Training Program!

Peer Specialists are self-identified people who are successful in the recovery process and who help others who are living with mental and/or substance use disorders. Through mutual respect and shared understanding based on similar experiences, peer specialists help people get into treatment and meet the challenges to sustain recovery.

The Peer Specialist Certification Training Program builds on the experience of people in recovery with training in foundational competencies required by anyone who provides peer support in behavioral health services. The Peer Specialist Certification Training Program will reinforce your knowledge based on personal experience, bring a unique perspective to person centered care, and enrich our recovery support services. The Peer Specialist Certification Training Program helps prepare individuals to qualify for available Certified Peer Specialist jobs within the behavioral health provider network.

A Certified Peer Specialist offers critical support in a variety of ways including:

- Acting as a mentor and being present for those engaged in the recovery process.
- Helping people advocate for and access resources they need to support their recovery.
- Participating in the treatment team under the supervision of a trained Behavioral Health Specialist.
- Leading recovery groups.
- Conducting surveys to gauge satisfaction with services.
- Bringing their personal experiences to decisions about program and policy development.
- Participating in community engagement activities to promote treatment and support services.

The 2024 Peer Specialist Certification Training classes will be held February 20, 2024, May 13, 2024, and July 1, 2024. Application deadlines are listed on page three (3). Selected applicants will be notified of acceptance. Classes will be conducted in-person at 64 New York Avenue, NE, Room 242W. Class size will be limited to no more than 15 participants.

After successful completion of classroom training, an 80-hour field practicum must be completed with a behavioral health provider certified by the Department of Behavioral Health. Participants who successfully complete program requirements will receive proof of program completion.



**APPLICATION
2024 PEER SPECIALIST CERTIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM**

Name:

Address:

Best Phone Number(s) to Contact You:

Email:

Class Schedule

- Winter CPS Training:** February 20 to March 29, 2024; Monday- Friday 9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Application Deadline: February 9, 2024 at 12:00 pm

- Spring CPS Training:** May 13 to June 21, 2024; Monday - Friday 9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Application Deadline: April 12, 2024 at 12:00 pm

- Summer CPS Training:** July 1 to August 9, 2024; Monday - Friday 9:00 am- 12:30 pm
Application Deadline: June 21, 2024 at 12:00pm

Requirements for Participation

Please click each box and submit proof of requirements 1 through 3 along with completed application.

1. I am at least eighteen (18) years of age and able to work legally in the United States.
2. I currently reside in the District of Columbia (D.C. resident).
3. I have a high school diploma, GED (or equivalent) or degree from an accredited Institution.
4. I have been in recovery from a mental illness and/or substance use disorder for two years or longer.

APPLICATION ESSAYS

You must complete all essays for your application to be considered.
(150 words maximum for each question)

- 1. Why do you want to be a Certified Peer Specialist?**
- 2. What makes you a good candidate to work with people who are living with mental health and/or substance use disorders?**
- 3. What types of experiences have you had in advocating for consumers of behavioral health services? Please describe in detail, listing efforts in letter-writing, personal advocacy, public testimony, programs you began, the work you are doing now, etc... Be as specific as possible.**
- 4. Describe your current employment or volunteer activities. How do you spend your time?**

APPLICATION ESSAYS CONTINUED

You must complete all essays for your application to be considered.
(150 words maximum for each question)

- 5. How do you define recovery? What do people who know you are in recovery say about you?**

- 6. How do you give back to your family and friends since you have been in recovery?**

- 7. Why do you think it is important for a Certified Peer Specialist to share their story?**

- 8. What will be your most difficult challenge in attending this training? How will you deal with this challenge?**

- 9. Is there anything else you would like us to know in considering you for the Peer Specialist Certification Program?**

The following documents must be submitted along with this completed application.
Please click on each box below to acknowledging each item

1. Resume.
2. Diplomas, certificates, or other proof of education/experience.
3. Two (2) letters of reference (no older than one year).
4. Proof of D.C. residency.

Electronic Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reminder- No application will be accepted after the established deadlines.
Please contact Adrienne Lightfoot, Program Coordinator at (202) 671-4089 or
Adrienne.lightfoot@dc.gov if you have any questions about the application
process.

Submit completed application with all supporting documentation by e-mail to
dbh.cfaa@dc.gov or deliver it to:

DC Department of Behavioral Health
Consumer & Family Affairs
64 New York Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Attention: Adrienne Lightfoot