

# APS Virtual Community News

## May 4, 2021



Academy of Peer Services  
**Virtual Learning Community**

Welcome to Community News Update. This is an abbreviated listing of upcoming events, activities, and job openings for the peer support workforce.

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## ACADEMY UPDATE

### Term 2 is Now Open

Term 2, of the Academy of Peer Services (APS) opened at noon on Monday, May 3. The Academy now offers over 70 online self-paced open-source courses that are free of charge. The courses were developed for the peer support workforce in New York State, but they are anyone who has an interest in learning more about peer support and supervision.

If you are returning to the academy, [Appendix A](#) in this newsletter contains the welcome letter that went to all registered Academy learners. It provides links to the Term 2 Course Catalog, Frequently Asked Questions, and Terms of Use policy.

If you are new to APS, whether you want to work toward certification as a peer specialist or learn enough to be able to support people working in the peer support role, you can learn more by reading the [FAQ](#) (frequently asked questions) and reviewing the [Course Catalog](#).

- APS can be accessed on the main website: <https://www.academyofpeerservices.org>
- The Virtual Learning Community is a companion site: <https://aps-community.org/>

## Need to Educate Others? Great Videos About Peer Services

Do you ever need to provide a quick introduction or overview to someone on what peer support is about? Two videos are available, through the Center for Practice Innovations, help to explain Peer Support and Peer Services in New York State.

- [An Introduction to Peer Services, with Celia Brown](#)
- [Peer Services in New York State, with Carlton Whitmore](#)

Two new AP CE courses provide additional information about the Peer Model and Power of Peers.

## MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH (OMH Campaign)

This year's Mental Health Awareness Month campaign by the NYS Office of Mental Health works to highlight "JEDIs" (those fighting for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) and Mental Health Trailblazers (advocates who have recently passed on) who worked to change practices and move the needle forward on person-centered mental healthcare. *Honorees:* Those featured in the May is Mental Health Month campaign are (Trailblazers) Ed Knight, George Ebert; (JEDIs – justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion) Jacki McKinney, Beebe Moore Campbell, Celia Brown, and Marsha P. Johnson, and (Game Changers) the Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) and the Academy of Peer Services (APS) for moving the needle toward mental health and wellness. Watch for these and other exciting Facebook postings from the Office of Mental Health on Facebook and join them in raising awareness about mental health and wellness! NYS OMH Facebook: [www.facebook.com/NYSOMH](http://www.facebook.com/NYSOMH)

# Words of Wellness



May 2021

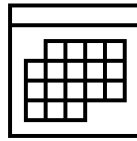
### Words of Wellness

Each month, we feature the Words of Wellness Calendar by Peggy Swarbrick. This month features laughter is good medicine and national scavenger hunt day. | [Learn More](#)  
Wellness Tip of the Month | [Learn More](#)

### Wellness in Recovery (WinR)

This month we also introduce Peggy's Wellness in Recovery (WinR) website. WinR is committed to bringing people in recovery, families, and peer support providers the education, resources, tools and opportunities to enhance wellness in the 8 dimensions and creating intentional communities for people in recovery, families and peer support providers so they can access self-care resources, tools, and information to empower one another to create a wellness lifestyle. Visit the WinR site and take the Wellness Inventory (Quiz). | [Learn More](#)

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR



## Note:

Events in our **Community Calendar** and **Newsletter** are provided as a public service to our peer community. To find out whether an event is eligible for continuing education for a specific professional association, certification, or program, ask the event organizer directly.

## Welcome to the Virtual Learning Community.

We Learn. We Share. We Thrive.

HOME • ABOUT • NEWS • CALENDAR • JOB BANK • WEBINARS • SUPPORT • RESOURCES • APS SITE



Visit our [Community Calendar](#) for the latest additions. These are current as of May 4, 2021.

## May Events

### Events

May 3-27, 2021

Mental Health Month Events, AMHW (Long Island) | [Learn More](#)

### Events

May 3-30, 2021

Connections: Mental Health Month Activities, HALI (Long Island) | [Learn More](#)

### Training

May 3-27, 2021

Spring Peer Support Training, MHEP | [Learn More](#)

**Deadline: May 4, 2021**

Call for Proposals

NARPA Virtual Conference, (Conference Dates in Fall 2021)

NARPA | [Learn More](#)

**Families Together Virtual Conference (2 Days)**

May 4-5, 2021

Annual Conference: Building Strong Roots, (Pre-conference May 4, conference May 5)

Families Together in New York State | [Learn More](#)

**Training (2 Days)**

May 4-5, 12:00 – 3:00 pm (Eastern)

Peer Support Values in Action, Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

**National Meeting**

May 4, 1:00 – 2:00 pm ET

National Peer Specialist Meeting, (For peer specialists working in early intervention programs)

PEPPNET | [Learn More](#)

**Panel Discussion**

May 4, 2:00 – 3:15 pm ET

(At the Families Together conference)

Panel Discussion with Mayor Lovely Warren on Police Reform Efforts in Rochester

Families Together in NYS | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 4, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

APS Study Group / Every Tuesday, HALI | [Learn More](#)

**APS Networking Meeting**

May 4, 5:15 pm ET

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174, Passcode: 702960

**OMH Training**

May 5, 9:30 am – 11:00 am ET

Vaccine Education for OMH & OASAS Service Recipients and Providers, OMH | [Learn More](#)

**Webinar**

May 5, 1:00 pm ET

Healing Thought the Arts, Credible Messenger Justice Center | [Learn More](#)

**Wellness Wednesday Discussion**

May 5, 4:00 pm ET

Youth Mental Health (Discussion), NAMI | [Learn More](#)

### **Older Adult Symposium**

May 6, 2021

4<sup>th</sup> Annual Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day, SAMHSA | [Learn More](#)

### **Webinar**

May 6, 10:00 am ET

Beyond the Individual: A Community Beset by Racial Trauma, AMHW | [Learn More](#)

### **Events**

May 6-13, 2021

WNY May is Mental Health Awareness Week, Restoration Society (Buffalo) | [Learn More](#)

### **Support Group**

May 6, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

Bi-Monthly Implementation Support - Focus on Integrated Treatment (FIT)  
Center for Practice Innovation | [Learn More](#)

### **Bi-County Empowerment Conference**

May 6, 3:30 – 5:00 pm ET

What's Changed, What's the Same, Where Do We Go From Here?

Darby Penney and Lucy Winer

Creative Connections, Emily Vaianella

Bi-County Conference Steering Committee | [Learn More](#)

### **Deadline: May 7**

Call for Proposals

28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bi-County Empowerment Conference: My Life, My Voice, My Choice

Peace for Now, Hope for Tomorrow, Bi-County Conference Steering Committee | [Learn More](#)

### **Webinar**

May 7, 12:00 pm (Eastern)

Ask Me Anything About Employment: The Cost of Benefits, Boston University  
Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation | [Learn More](#)

### **Webinar**

May 7, 1:00 – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

Supervisory Coaching in the Wake of COVID-19, The Coalition for BH | [Learn More](#)

### **Regional Peer Worker Support Circle**

May 7, 4:00 – 5:00 pm (Every other Friday)

Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center | [Learn More](#)

**Deadline: May 7**

NYAPRS Feedback Survey

Complete the Survey to provide feedback to NYAPRS for their programming

NYAPRS | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 8, 5-6 pm ET

Reframing Crisis | [Learn More](#)

**Free Virtual Training (5 Days)**

May 10-14, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (30 hrs)

Recovery Coach Academy - Peer Training Institute / Alliance for Positive Change | [Learn More](#)

**OMH Training**

May 10, 9:30 am – 11:00 am ET

Vaccine Education for OMH & OASAS Service Recipients and Providers, OMH | [Learn More](#)

**Webinar**

May 10, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

WRAP and Addictions, Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 10, 12:00 – 1:00 pm ET

Mutual Support Call for Mental Health Providers, MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

**Creative Connections**

May 10, 6:00 – 7:00 pm (Eastern)

[Creative Connections Campaign](#), HALI | [Learn More](#)

**Webinar**

May 11, 3:00 – 5:00 pm ET

988 National Helpline for Mental Health Emergencies, MHTTC | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 11, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

APS Study Group / Every Tuesday, HALI | [Learn More](#)

**APS Networking Meeting**

May 11, 5:15 pm ET

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174, Passcode: 702960

**Wellness Wednesday Discussion**

May 12, 4 pm ET

Mental Health in the Workplace, NAMI | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 13, 2021

Ethics Workshop, Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Networking Meeting (CNY)**

May 13, 10:00 – 12:00 pm

Introduction to the OMH Field Office Serving Central Region, CNY Peer Networking Group | [Learn More](#)

**Virtual Job Fair**

May 14, 3:30 – 5:00 pm

Peer Specialist Job Openings, NYC DOHMH | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 15, 5-6 pm ET

Reframing Crisis | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 15-16, 2021

The How of Performance Activism, East Side Institute | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 17, 9 am – 4 pm ET

Family Supported Recovery, Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 17, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ET

Part 1: Motivational Interviewing Skills for Family Peer Advocates, CTAC | [Learn More](#)

**Free Virtual Training**

May 17-19, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm (16 hrs)

Ethical Considerations, Peer Training Institute / Alliance for Positive Change | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 17-21; 3:30 - 6:00 pm ET

Youth Emotional CPR (eCPR) Training, NEC | [Learn More](#)

**Webinar**

May 18, 8:30 – 10:00 am ET

Breakfast Series: Promoting Health Equity, Racial & Social Justice, The Coalition for BH | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 18, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

APS Study Group / Every Tuesday, HALI | [Learn More](#)

**Peer Specialist Training (Session 2)**

Starts Tuesday, May 18, 2021

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am, and 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

AMWH | [Learn More](#)

**APS Networking Meeting**

May 18, 5:15 pm ET

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174, Passcode: 702960

**Webinar**

May 18, 6:00 – 7:30 pm ET

Let's Talk: Virtual Student Mental Health Conference, ASHA Int'l | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 19, 9:00 – 10:00 am ET

Bi-Monthly Implementation Support - Focus on Integrated Treatment (FIT)

Center for Practice Innovation | [Learn More](#)

**Wellness Wednesday Discussion**

May 19, 4 pm ET

Transforming Crisis Response, NAMI | [Learn More](#)

**Webinar**

May 19, 10:00 – 12:00 pm ET

Changing Your Perspective: Applying a Trauma Informed Lens, Families Together | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 19, 4:30 – 6:00 pm (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday)

Peer Learning Collaborative, Recovery Coach University | [Learn More](#)

**OMH Training**

May 19, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm ET

Vaccine Education for OMH & OASAS Service Recipients and Providers, OMH | [Learn More](#)

**Community Conversation**

May 21, 1:30 – 4:30 pm ET

COVID 19: Mental Health, Equity and Resistance, Credible Messenger Justice Center | [Learn More](#)

**Regional Peer Worker Support Circle**

May 21, 4:00 – 5:00 pm ET (Every other Friday)

Northeast and Caribbean Mental Health Technology Transfer Center | [Learn More](#)



**Fundraiser**

May 22, (Times vary by location)

NAMI Walks Your Way (Rochester, NYC, Westchester), NAMI | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 22, 5-6 pm ET

Reframing Crisis | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 24, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm ET

Part 2 – Change Process for Family Peer Advocates, CTAC | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 25, 2:00 pm ET

Communication: Healthy Boundaries for Peer Specialists, Doors to Wellbeing | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

May 25, 3:00 – 4:00 pm ET

APS Study Group / Every Tuesday, HALI | [Learn More](#)

**APS Networking Meeting**

May 25, 5:15 pm ET

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174, Passcode: 702960

**Training**

May 26 and 27, 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET (2 Days)

Talking with Intention: Effective Communication and Purposeful Self-Disclosure

The Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

**Wellness Wednesday Discussion**

May 26, 4 pm ET

Multicultural Mental Health | NAMI | [Learn More](#)

**NAMI Cafe**

May 27, 7 pm Eastern

Creative Talents / Café | NAMI | [Learn More](#)

**Support Group**

May 29, 5-6 pm ET

Reframing Crisis | [Learn More](#)

**Deadline to Apply: May 31**

Credible Messenger Scholarship / CUNY Community Leadership Certificate  
CUNY / CMJC | [Learn More](#)

**Summer Conferences, Deadlines, and Events**

**Virtual University of Youth Power (2 Days)**

June 24 & 25, 2021

Youth Power Still Standing: Strong, Safe, and Steady

Families Together in NYS | [Learn More](#)

**Training**

June 30-July 1, 12:00 – 3:00 pm ET

Peer Generation: Youth Rising

Copeland Center | [Learn More](#)

**Deadline: July 1, 2021**

Membership Application for the NYS OMH Statewide Multicultural Committee

NYS OMH SMAC | [Learn More](#)

**Alternatives 2021 Virtual Conference (4 Days)**

July 8, 10, 15, and 17

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery (NCMRC) | [Learn More](#)

**15<sup>th</sup> NYC Conference for Working Peer Specialists**

July 15, 2021

NYU Kimmel Center (details coming soon)

**Conference**

July 27-28, 2021

NAMIcon (Virtual Convention)

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) | [Learn More](#)

**Virtual Conference (2 Days)**

August 18-19, 2021

“Peering into the Future”

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Peer Pathways Conference, Tacoma, WA | [Learn More](#)

**Virtual Conference**

October 3-6, 2021

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Faces and Voices of Recovery | [Learn More](#)

## ONGOING SUPPORT



### Welcome to the Virtual Learning Community.

We Learn. We Share. We Thrive.

HOME • ABOUT • NEWS • CALENDAR • JOB BANK • WEBINARS • SUPPORT • RESOURCES • COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS • APS SITE

Community Collaborators



For support groups, weekly or ongoing meetings, and other support in the community, visit our new [Community Collaborators](#) page on the Virtual Community Site.

Our featured support line is:

#### **NYC Peer Workforce Support Line**

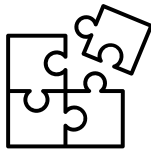
Wednesdays and Thursdays | 6:00 – 8:30 pm Eastern

Confidential and staffed by peer volunteers

929-254-4422

If you would like your groups and classes to be featured in the monthly Community News or the bi-weekly News Update, send email with your announcement or schedule to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

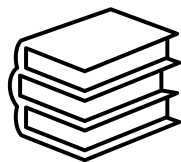
#### **Is Anything Missing?**



Are we missing anything in the Calendar or Support pages?

Contact us at [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com)

## RESOURCES



**NY Project Hope** is New York's COVID-19 Emotional Support Helpline.

**Emotional Support Helpline: 1-844-863-9314** | [Learn More](#)

Learn to Cope with Hope. View the animated videos: <https://nyprojecthope.org/understand/>

**AFFORDABLE INTERNET** – Announcement for Statewide Low Cost Internet | [Learn More](#)

**CREATE – Computer Recycling for Education and Technology Enhancement**

The Computer Recycling for Education and Technology Enhancement Act (CREATE) was passed to promote computer literacy in order to produce a competitive workforce. This page provides information regarding the process to be used to receive surplus computer equipment, owned by the State, that may be of use in the educational system. | [Learn more](#)

**The Key Update** – National Mental Health Consumers' Self-Help Clearinghouse special interest newsletter for the peer community.

[Learn More](#)

**The Wildflower Alliance** (formerly the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community) newsletter.

[Learn More](#)

**Mindfulness Guide:** A Young Adult's Guide to Meditation by NYAPRS' Ruth Colón-Wagner

[Access the Guide](#)

**Pat Deegan's: Using Meds to Help Me Get the Life I Want** - From a recent webinar hosted by the Center for Practice Innovations (CPI). See the resources and a recording of her live session

<https://practiceinnovations.org/CPI-Resources/Using-Meds-to-Help-Me-Get-The-Life-I-Want>

An Announcement from Pat Deegan: [Personal Medicine – A Disruptive Innovation](#)



## PARTICIPATE/GET INVOLVED



### **Join the Statewide Multicultural Committee**

Deadline: July 1, 2021

Membership Application | [Learn More](#)

### **Access to Recovery Coalition**

Access to Recovery (A2R) is seeking people with lived experience to help shape HARP services. HARP is a Medicaid Plan that provides extra services (like peer support) to individuals. A2R is a coalition of people who are directly impacted by these services to advise OMH on policies and practices around HARP. To learn more and apply, [click here](#).

### **Friendship Project Seeks Volunteers**

- Are you a person with lived experience in mental health or substance abuse systems?
- Do you have a compassionate heart that has the desire to connect with others?
- Would you like to build a lasting friendship with a peer who may be having a hard time due to isolation and other struggles?
- Can you make at least a one-hour per week commitment to your friend plus a biweekly meeting with Friendship Project manager(s), all via zoom, telephone or chat?

If you answered yes, apply to be a **Friendship Project** volunteer. [Learn more](#).

### **WRAP and Crisis Support Survey**

The Copeland Center for Wellness and Recovery invites you to fill out a survey on WRAP and Crisis Support. We are seeking community members who have supported someone - including yourself - through a crisis in the past year to share experiences. | [Take the Survey](#)

## RESEARCH



### **Trade or Technical Career Graduates**

Study seeking Individuals with mental health conditions who have graduated from trade or technical programs and are pursuing careers in technical fields. Also seeking input from family members and others who involved in career services, supported employment, supported education and vocational rehabilitation. -- [Flyer](#) -- [Learn More](#)

### **People who Smoke and Have a Mental Health Condition**

Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Department of Psychiatry in New Brunswick is conducting an [online survey](#) to evaluate tobacco quitting barriers in smokers with mental health conditions. Eligibility Requirements: Volunteers must be smokers who are 18 years or older. Compensation: You will be compensated for your time (\$20 gift card). Visit [www.tinyurl.com/RUTBS](http://www.tinyurl.com/RUTBS) to complete the survey.

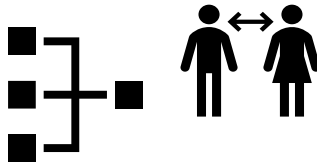
## JOB OPENINGS



### **Please note:**

Job Openings and the following Open Jobs Reports are provided as a public service for our learners and the peer community. For more information about a specific job, please contact the employer directly.

## Job Bank



The Virtual Community Job Bank lists positions that have been submitted directly to us by employers who are looking for qualified peer candidates. These are updated regularly, so visit the [Job Seekers page](#) to see the most up to date listings. **Jobs in the Job Bank are listed in order of submission. Most recent jobs are listed at the top.**

### New York City

[Virtual Job Fair – May 14, 3:30-5:00 pm](#)

Sign up to learn about Peer Specialist Openings in NYC  
NYC DOHMH

### Binghamton / Southern Tier

[Multiple peer support worker openings](#)

MHAST

### New York City

[Peer Counselor](#) (Adult Inpatient) Kings County Hospital

To apply: <https://employment.nychhc.org/> Job IDs: 57434, 59865  
NYC Health+ Hospitals

### Oneida

[Pathways Program Director](#)

Liberty Resources

### Queens

[Peer Bridger](#)

NYAPRS

### Brooklyn

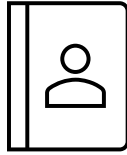
[Peer Specialist](#) | The Wellness Works Clinic  
Services for the UnderServed (SUS)

### New York City

[Peer Counselor Level 2](#)

NYC Health+Hospitals

## Open Jobs Report



Still looking? Visit our [Open Jobs report page](#) for the latest (April/May) listings of openings in the state as reported to multiple employment agencies. The reports are sorted by location, job title, and employer to allow you to quickly find openings that are most relevant to your search. Starting this month (May) the Open Jobs report will now be provided every other week by Curtis Dann-Messier, Director of the New York City Peer and Community Health Worker Workforce Consortium.

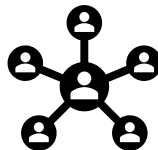
## Are We Missing Anything?



If you have an opening to share or find these new reports helpful, let us know. If you can think of anything else to add, send email to [academy.virtual.community@gmail.com](mailto:academy.virtual.community@gmail.com).

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## APS NETWORKING MEETING



**Join us on Tuesday Evenings for our APS Networking Meeting**

Every Tuesday, 5:15 – 6:30 pm

Meeting ID: 889 0219 9174 | Passcode: 702960



## APPENDIX A – WELCOME APS LEARNERS

### WELCOME BACK

Dear APS Learners,

Term 2 2021 launches today, Monday, May 3rd at 12:00 pm Eastern. Please see some important announcements and updates below.

#### **New to the Academy?**

Welcome and thank you for joining us. To support your use of the Academy of Peer Services (APS), start by reading our list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), which provides an overview of the Academy and the New York Certified Peer Specialist (NY-CPS) certification.

To access the FAQ, [click here](#).

#### **Course Catalog for Term 2 Now Available**

The Course Catalog provides a complete listing of all the courses that are now being offered through the Academy of Peer Services.

The APS Course Catalog includes listings for the CORE, Elective, and Supervision courses as well the APS CE (Continuing Education) courses which have been adapted from webinars offered by our Virtual Learning Community (VLC) and community collaborators. CE courses are on topics of current interest and offer a total of 35 hours of CE approved by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB).

The new Course Catalog includes more information on courses like pre-requisites, courses that are currently under revision, and the most recent courses that have been added through the APS CE category. The Course Catalog will continue to be updated as courses relaunch and new courses are made available throughout 2021.

To access the **Course Catalog**, [click here](#).

#### **Getting Started in Term 2**

Term 2 begins at noon on May 3, 2021 and ends at 5:00 pm on July 26, 2021.

All courses and tests have been reset during the term break. If you did not complete a course during a previous term, you will need to register again for the course. You will have two attempts to pass any course post-test. Please read the important information that follows about your APS User Account and the Terms of Use.

#### **Your APS User Account**

To maintain the integrity of your record in APS with the Certification Board and OMH, it is important that you create and use only one account in APS. If you have forgotten your password, use the password reset feature on the APS Log in and/or work with the APS User Support Specialist to set a new password.

If you have difficulties in creating an account, accessing your existing account, or need to make a change, please contact our User Support Specialist at [academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com)

The APS [Terms of Use](#) prohibits you, or anyone supporting you, from creating multiple accounts under different names or email addresses for a single user.

### **About the APS Terms of Use**

The New York State Office of Mental Health (OMH) generously provides funding for you (or the people you support in accessing APS) to take advantage of online courses, testing, certificates and transcripts of courses completed through the Academy. The ability to take certification level courses free of charge, at your own pace, on your own time is a privilege. Your use of APS carries certain responsibilities and obligations. Appropriate use of APS is ethical, honest, legal and upholds the integrity and credibility of the New York State Peer Specialist Certification (NY-CPS). Your responsibilities and obligations, whether taking courses and tests yourself or assisting others, are defined in our [Terms of Use](#) policy. Violation of this policy may result in suspension from the APS and be reported to the NYPSCB and Office of Mental Health for further disciplinary actions.

To access the Terms of Use, [click here](#).

### **APS User Guide**

Whether you are just getting started or need a refresher on how to register for courses or complete other tasks related to taking courses, tests, or evaluations you can refer to the User Guide for assistance.

To access the APS User Guide, [click here](#).

### **APS Virtual Learning Community**

The Virtual Learning Community (VLC) is a project of the Academy of Peer Services that acts as a clearinghouse for the peer support workforce in New York State (and beyond) to connect, communicate, and collaborate! The VLC website is: <https://aps-community.org>

The VLC features a Job Bank that consistently posts job openings submitted by employers as well as reports of jobs (sorted by title, employer, and location) that have been listed with employment agencies and services statewide. It also includes Resources for peer support providers, Research opportunities for those who wish to get involved in research, and a Support page with contacts for telephone or online support for supporters as well as an online guide created by VLC facilitators at the onset of COVID called, [Tips Guide for Facilitators of Online Peer Support Groups](#).

Members of the VLC receive a monthly newsletter and frequent news updates from the Community Calendar of upcoming events of the webinars, conferences, training opportunities, town meetings, and many other opportunities to get involved in the peer support community.

VLC mailings are separate from this APS Forum, which is reserved (mostly) for APS course-related announcements, such as this APS Term Opening announcement.

If you are not already a member of the free VLC email list and want to join, [click here](#).

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Our User Support team is available by email to provide assistance. If you have a question or concern, it's a good idea to check the FAQ first, which is a list of questions our User Support Team often answers when a support request is made by an APS learner.

To access the **FAQ**, [click here](#).

If you have a question, you can reach APS User Support by email at [academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com).

### **Let Others Know About Us!**

With this Spring and the increasing awareness of the many benefits of peer support, we see many new opportunities for peer specialists and our entire peer support workforce. If you know of others who are looking at joining us who could benefit from taking APS courses, please share this information and encourage them to enroll. It is free. It is fully online. It is available 24x7. And this term is open until 5:00 pm on July 26, 2021.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Academy and the Virtual Community.

We wish you a productive term.

The APS Team

## **APS USER SUPPORT**



If you have questions related to the Academy of Peer Services online courses, contact our User Support

Specialist, Maryam:

[academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com](mailto:academyofpeerservicesnyomh@gmail.com)

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



Visit and explore our Virtual Learning Community website.

<https://aps-community.org>

Welcome to the Virtual Learning Community.

We Learn. We Share. We Thrive.

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Community Collaborators



Check our new Community Collaborators page!  
Watch for news from these exciting new collaborations.

Our News, Calendar, Job Bank, Support, Resources, and other pages are updated regularly.

To receive updates, join our free Virtual Learning Community mailing list.  
If you are not already a member of the Virtual Learning Community, sign up for our free mailing list.

To sign up, [click here](#).