

Peer Credentialing 101 Webinar Questions & Answers

Academy of Peer Services:

If a staff member leaves the employer before completing the training, should we notify APS to disable the account?

No. The learner can contact user support to have their email address changed and password reset. Learners should not create multiple accounts if they have left their job or no longer have access to the email, they used to create their account.

Can we call/email APS to verify if someone is either Provisional or Certified?

No. The APS does not have access to this information. You can contact the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board for that information, info@nypeerspecialist.org

New York Peer Specialist Certification Board:

How long is free certification available? Does the certification expire?

There is no anticipated end date. For a personal certification, this will get renewed as you work towards that. If you are looking for an individual expiration date, MHEP can assist with this.

If someone is already an OASAS Certified Recovery Peer Advocate or CRPA, will any of their training and experience count toward obtaining this certification?

No. These are different certification processes.

If a Peer Specialist has Professional Credentialing is that also Medicaid reimbursed? Or is it only Credentialed individuals?

To bill Medicaid, a Peer Specialist must be provisionally or fully certified and be an employee of an organization who has been approved to bill for services. Certified Peer Specialists cannot bill for services on their own.

Are those who receive the Provisional certification expected to complete 2000 hours to later become a full NYCPS?

Ideally, yes. They would receive the provisional certification, find supervised work, or volunteer experience, and then use hours to be able to build towards their standard certification. The 2,000 hours must be peer specialist experience under the supervision of a qualified supervisor. If an individual is not able to do that by the time their provisional certification expires, they can renew their provisional certification, which they can do, indefinitely.

How can an organization get internal trainings or workshops approved for continuing education units?

An organization cannot get internal trainings or workshops approved for continuing education units. All organizations are most likely providing staff training for staff development, which is great. That is part of the requirement of the job and would not count toward certification. The logic behind this is that we want all individuals to have equal access to continuing education units. If it were to become employment contingent, this may limit the opportunities for individuals who are not employed there to access the continuing education units.

What are the qualification requirements to supervise a NYCPS-P?

The supervisor must understand what the work tasks are. The supervisor needs to sign off on this via the work verification form. The supervisor does not need to be a Peer. For Medicaid billing purposes, there are other requirements for what supervision should look like.

I believe there is an internship experience the Peer needs to complete as part of their training. If the individual is already employed in a Peer role, will their employment count towards their internship hours/experiences?

There is no internship experience for the Adult Provisional certification. There is no experience required, whatsoever. When the individual works the 2000 hours, they would then use that experience to apply for the Standard certification.

For the NYCPS application- I noticed that there has been a lot of bounce back with referral letters with the online portal application. The PDF app provides a great overview of what should be included in the letter versus the website portal app. Perhaps there is a way to add this info to the portal to prevent the delay in apps and to paint a clearer picture of what should be included? I make it a point to send a copy of the PDF to team members who I know will be filling out the reference online to try to help prevent the bounce back asking for additional info. This is a trend I noticed that delays applications being approved.

Please call us or access our website for assistance. If your letter does not get approved or is holding up the process, please contact us and we can outline steps you can take to expedite this.

(518) 426-0945, <http://nypeerspecialist.org>, info@nypeerspecialist.org

Families Together of NY & CTAC: Youth Peer Advocate:

What does work experience include?

This would include work as either a Family Peer Advocate or Youth Peer Advocate. Work experience can be paid or formal volunteer experience. If this work can be validated and signed off to attest that the individual has completed the requisite number of hours.

Is there any consideration of having a Jr Credentialing perhaps? Youth not yet graduated who are serving as positive peers and might want a part time job in this capacity, or an internship?

We have recently launched our Junior Youth Peer Advocate Training Program which is a 5-week training for high school students (grades 9-12) who are passionate about supporting others. Upon completion, trained JYPA's are eligible to facilitate support groups for fellow students within their school. JYPA's are under the supervision of an adult ally (teacher, school counselor, social worker, etc.). FTNYS offers ongoing technical assistance to ensure all groups have the necessary resources to succeed.

If we are interested in hiring a certified youth peer where is the best place to recruit a candidate?

If you have a listing, we can send it out to our regional listserv. This job listing would go to all credentialed YPA's in your region. We are always trying to find new ways to expand this process. Also, we encourage programs to always look at the youth their serving. If they see youth with strong advocacy skills, we encourage programs to share these opportunities with them.

Families Together of NY & CTAC: Family Peer Advocate:

Can a family peer advocate be a parent of an adult child if the disability onset was prior to 21 years of age?

Yes. The Family Peer Advocate could be a parent of an adult child who is older than 21, if the disability onset is prior to age 21.

Regarding FPA, just to clarify, FPA's do not actively need to be parenting an adult child when providing services. The requirement is that they navigated service systems with their child before the child turned 21.

Yes, that's correct.

Miscellaneous Questions not related to Certification/Credentialing & Training:

How accessible are the modules for individuals who may need to use screen readers or magnification?

The APS modules are accessible for people who use screen readers or magnification. FPA modules are not wholly accessible. We are actively working to make these accessible.

Is this 1000 hour of billable work or just hours of total work?

It's 1000 hours of total work. For FPA's and YPA's, any work that is part of their job requirement would fit under this.

Does a certified peer specialist need to be supervised by someone with an MSW or master's degree?

This depends on how the program is paying for the position. If a program is billing Medicaid, there are specific requirements as to who can sign off on the hours the program is billing Medicaid for and that is outlined in the program's regulations. For a program is not billing Medicaid for the position, it does not matter what the qualifications are for the supervisor.

We are an Article 31 OMH clinic/ CCBHC. Can we bill for NYCPS?

Yes, licensed CCBHCs can bill for peer support services provided by a NYCPS.

Additional Resources:

Academy of Peer Services:

<https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/express/apsomh/layout/APSCourseCatalog.pdf>

<https://www.academyofpeerservices.org/>

https://aps-community.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/010622_APS_FAQ_Term_1-22.pdf

NY Peer Specialist Certification Board:

www.nypeerspecialist.org

info@nypeerspecialist.org

Youth/Family Peer Advocates:

If you would like more information, feel free to reach out: rlettieri@ftnys.org