



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

*Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services
Promoting Recovery, Resilience & Self Determination*

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D.
Commissioner

David T. Jones
Deputy Commissioner

Marquita Williams, Ph. D.
Deputy Commissioner

Lawrence A. Real, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer

What is a Certified Peer Specialist?

A Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) is someone living with a serious mental health or co-occurring condition trained to provide paid peer support. The purpose of this position is to aid, teach and support others in their recovery process. The peer relationship is characterized by mutual trust and respect, achieving goals and moving toward a more meaningful life.

DBHIDS utilizes the OMHSAS criteria for Peer Specialists and limit applicants to those who meet the criteria below:

- A self-identified current or former user of behavioral health or co-occurring services who can relate to others who are now using those services
- High school diploma or GED
- Within the last three years has 12 months (not necessarily consecutive) full or part time paid or volunteer work experience; one year of college or other educational experience (within the last three years) can be substituted for the work experience
- Ability to establish trusting relationships and with people receiving behavioral health services
- Commitment to recovery, choice, empowerment, and the ability of people living with serious mental health or co-occurring conditions to find meaningful lives in the community

How do I apply for the CPS Training?

Complete the application with the following documents attached:

- Proof of previous or present mental health services for serious mental illness diagnosis
- Copy of your High School Diploma/GED
- Provide at least one current letter of recommendation written by a former or present employer, teacher, or volunteer supervisor to verify 12 month work or volunteer activity within the last 3 years on letter head stating hours worked and tasks performed
- Proof of Philadelphia residency
- Current professional resume
- A current letter of recommendation on company letterhead

During open application periods, a completed application with the required documents attached can be submitted in person, mailed or emailed to:

**Mailing Address: DBHIDS, 1101 Market Street, 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107
Attn: PCCIU CPS Applications**

Email Address: DBHIDS.PeerCulture@phila.gov

****There are a limited number of slots available for the training. This is a competitive process with no guarantee of employment. Submit the application and required documents together. Applications that are received incomplete will not be processed ****

1101 Market Street, 7th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107-2907, Phone (215) 685-5400



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Certified Peer Specialist Training (CPS) Selection Criteria

The DBHIDS CPS initiative was developed for people living with serious mental health conditions to become self-determined and resilient in their recovery process while gaining experience delivering paid peer support services. Successful completion of this workforce development training can lead to employment opportunities within the behavioral health system. DBHIDS is seeking motivated individuals who meet the following criteria to align system transformation concepts, practices and context through the use of the Practice Guidelines' four domains, seven goals and 10 core values.

Requirement for Philadelphia County

To participate in the DBHIDS sponsored Certified Peer Specialist training, you **must** be the following (written or printed verification is required):

- A Philadelphia County Resident
- Attendance of a Storytelling Training

Requirements for the State of Pennsylvania

To participate in the Certified Peer Specialist training, you **must** meet the following (written or printed verification is required):

- **Experience:** Previous or Present user of behavioral health services for a serious mental health illness diagnosis. A serious mental illness is defined in the mental health bulletin OMH-94-04. Provide verification of your past or present mental health treatment (for example: copy of evaluation, letter from clinician).
- **Education:** A high school diploma or General Equivalency Degree (GED)
- **Activity:** Within the past three years, you must have maintained a job or volunteer position for 12 months or you earned 24 post-secondary education credits.