

NATIONAL CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALIST (NCPS) CERTIFICATION EMPLOYER'S GUIDE

The first national advanced peer specialist certification

OVERVIEW

Mental Health America's National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) certification identifies peer support specialists with an exceptional level of knowledge, skills, and experience. Building upon existing state certifications, the NCPS is an advanced level, national certification that ensures employers that they can expect the same high standard of peer support no matter where they are in the US.

The MHA NCPS certification, developed in partnership with the Florida Certification Board, is a legally defensible certification, developed under the strictest procedures according to the National Commission for Certifying Agencies' Standards for Accreditation of Certification.

BENEFITS TO EMPLOYERS

The NCPS certification assures employers that they are getting the most experienced and knowledgeable peers in the workforce no matter where they are. With a focus on skills, knowledge of systems, and whole health, NCPS peers demonstrate their ability to work across settings and on multi-disciplinary teams.

By utilizing peers with the NCPS certification, those receiving support have access to peers at the cutting edge of a field that improves quality of life, engagement with services, and co-morbid health conditions while decreasing depression, substance abuse, and re-hospitalization rates.

Employers who invest in NCPS peers improve outcomes for those they serve, lowers costs by reducing the use of the highest levels of care, and create opportunities to improve the lives of more individuals who are struggling with mental health challenges and trauma.

CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

- High School Diploma or General Equivalency Degree (HSD/GED) or higher
- Knowledge across six domains of practice:
 1. Foundations of Peer Support
 2. Foundations of Health Care Systems
 3. Mentoring, Shared Learning, and Relationship Building
 4. Activation and Self-Management
 5. Advocacy
 6. Professional and Ethical Responsibilities
- A minimum of 3,000 hours supervised experience providing direct peer-to-peer recovery support services
- Current state certification with a minimum of 40 hours training OR a certificate of completion of an MHA approved training program
- One professional letter of recommendation for certification
- One supervisory letter of recommendation for certification
- Attest to lived experience
- Agree to be bound by MHA Code of Ethics
- A passing score on the 125-question NCPS examination

Once certified, peers must maintain their certification by:

- Practicing according to the Code of Ethics
- Completing 20 hours of CEUs every two years
- Paying a biennial recertification fee