**Who can become a Peer Specialist?**

* 18 years of age or older
* Has high school diploma or GED
* Identifies as having direct experience with a life of recovery with mental health diagnosis
* Knowledge of recovery and overcoming challenges resulting from mental health diagnosis
* Current or former consumer of mental health services
* Not currently hospitalized

**Training options**

* Online training through Academy of Peer Services website
* “Formal” skills training through other programs& pass test for “Core classes” on APS website
  + In person training by various peer run agencies (HTH, ThriveAtWork, etc.)
  + On the job training through peer run agency
  + Self-taught through various experiences

**How to become certified**

* Submit an application to New York Peer Specialist Certification Board that contains
  + Copies of required modules from Academy of Peer Services website
  + Completed certification application
  + Recovery narrative
  + Employment/Volunteer summary completed by supervisor and application
  + Three (3) reference letters
  + Signed Code of Ethics

**Types of certifications**

* ***Level 1“Provisional”***
  + Met general requirements but have not accrued needed supervised practical experience
  + Good for 1 year with a onetime chance to renew for a maximum of two (2) years
  + Minimum 2000 supervised hours (approximately 35 hours per week for a year) of paid or volunteer experience to advance to Professional level
* ***Level 2”Professional”***
  + Met general requirements and have accrued needed supervised practical experience
  + Good for three (3) years and must complete recertification requirements for renewal

**Who need to be certified?**

* Anyone working in an OMH facility as a Peer Specialist
* Peer Specialist who provide services that are Medicaid reimbursable
* Persons who provide services through 1915i wavier
* Peer Specialist who work for the VA