



## Mental Health Requirements

The State requires that people who are trained as peer specialists be individuals who attest that they have a mental health diagnosis and have reached a place in their recovery pathway where they can positively support others in a similar situation.

Please select the response below that reflects your lived experience. *\*Lived experience of Substance Use Treatment by itself is not sufficient to meet the requirement for CPS Training.*

### **Please check all that apply:**

I attest that I have a mental health diagnosis and have reached a place in my recovery pathway where I can positively support others in a similar situation.

I attest that I have a mental health diagnosis and have reached a place in my recovery pathway where I can positively support others in a similar situation. I also have substance use lived experience.

I personally identify as someone who is a present or past recipient of mental health services.

## Employment Interest (Specific Populations)

Which specific populations of people are you interested in working with and supporting?

### **Please check all that apply:**

Individuals in Mental Health Distress (Crisis Worker)

Please answer the questions below:

1. What attracts you to supporting individuals in mental health distress/crisis in the role of a Certified Peer Specialist (Please explain in detail)?
2. How do you feel about supporting individuals in urgent distress (Please explain)?

Older adults (60 years old or older)

Youth/Young Adult (14-26 years of age)

Individuals involved in the criminal justice system

Dual Diagnosis Mental Health/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Individuals who are homeless

Individuals who are physically impaired

Individuals who have a co-occurring challenge (mental illness and substance use disorder)

Or other groups - please indicate group here:

Please state why:

## Computer / Online knowledge

Please select (X) all that apply.

Computer skills (Email, 'Word' documents)

Knowledge or willingness to learn types of online medical documentation or EHR (Electronic Health Records), as this may be required by employers

Please explain any maybe or no answers:

The Certified Peer Specialist Training is required and provides the knowledge and skills needed to take the PA Certification Board (PCB) CPS Exam. Certification is obtained through passing the PCB exam. All candidates selected, after an application review and interview, to attend the CPS training will be provided the opportunity for a limited time following graduation, to take the PCB exam.

***Please state your interest in becoming employed as a CPS upon graduation.***

Full Time

Part-Time

## Qualifications

1. Do you have a high school diploma or a GED (not a requirement for the training, although it may be a requirement for the employer)?
2. Describe work experience or college/post-secondary education in the last 3-5 years.
3. Do you have a valid Driver's License (not a requirement for the training, although it may be a requirement for the employer)?
4. Please attach the following:
  - o Resume (optional, although it may be a requirement for the employer)
  - o Letter of recommendation (optional, although it may be a requirement for the employer)

## Essay Questions

**The questions below will help the review committee choose among many qualified applicants, so please answer as best you can.**

1. Write YOUR “Story of Hope.” (Describe your recovery process. This would include a brief story or narrative of your life and recovery: 1.) How was your life experience before recovery? 2.) Explain how you have come to understand recovery 3.) What is your life like now that you understand recovery? Please include any resources, coping skills or supports that helped you understand your recovery and your wellness today).
2. Please describe your current wellness strategies and how you pursue balance.
3. What are your hopes for after completion of the training?
4. Describe what strengths you would bring to the CPS position and what skills you feel you need to develop.
5. Describe your most recent work, volunteer, or education history (It is encouraged to include your resume).

The training involves both lectures and group activities. The group activities are a place in which respect and support are very important. Class participation, involvement in group activities and general attendance will be used to assess readiness to provide peer support services in a professional setting. In addition to providing education to participants, there will be skill building through role play, 'After-session' activities, and sharing of personal experiences of recovery from mental health challenges.

*Please remember* that this course will provide you with the certification needed to qualify and apply for a Certified Peer Specialist position. It is not a guarantee of a position but rather a preparation and training for potential employment.

Completing this application does not ensure acceptance into the training class.

## Certification and Logistics Information/Questions

I certify that all information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Do you have any dietary restrictions or mobility issues?

Is there anything else we should be aware of to support you during the training?

Are there any "reasonable accommodations" that you will need for this training?

Please explain and offer ideas for support.

If you wish to receive texts from training facilitators about the training you are attending, please leave your preferred text number here:

**About Certified Peer Support:** Montgomery County is committed to the growth and development of professional peer support. This course will provide you with the knowledge needed to take the PA Certification Board CPS Exam. After official certification, there are continuing education (trainings) required to maintain certification. Montgomery County offers trainings to help in fulfilling those requirements.

Taking the course is no guarantee of employment. In addition, some employers do not hire individuals who have had a felony conviction or poor driving records. Once you have received your certification you will need to apply for positions that are available or utilize the necessary community supports for the job seeking skills you may need. Montgomery County has developed a Certified Peer Specialist Professional Development and Networking group, through which further technical assistance and employment leads can be obtained.

When you are accepted into the training, you will be asked to participate in follow-up contact to obtain additional information needed to assess program effectiveness, and to track information for outcomes measurement.

**I understand the above information and I am looking forward to being present and actively participating in the 2026 Montgomery County Certified Peer Specialist Training.**

**Applicant's Signature (*typed/signed*):**

Thank you for your application. Training participants will be chosen based on meeting the program's selection criteria, responses to application questions, and timely submission of applications.

**Please submit your completed application and attachments (Letter of Recommendation and Resume) to: [Tracey.Riper-Thomas@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:Tracey.Riper-Thomas@montgomerycountypa.gov)**

If you have any questions, please contact Donna Vaughn at  
[Donna.Vaughn@montgomerycountypa.gov](mailto:Donna.Vaughn@montgomerycountypa.gov)