

WISCONSIN CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALISTS

A Certified Peer Specialist is a person who has not only lived the experience of mental illness and/or substance use disorder but also has had formal training in the peer specialist model of mental health and/or substance use disorder supports. They use their unique set of recovery experiences in combination with solid skills training to support peers. Peer Specialists actively incorporate peer support into their work while working within an agencies team support structure as a defined part of the recovery team.

Are you interested in becoming a Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialist?

- Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialists are professionals that operate within a competency based Scope of Practice and a Code of Ethics and are examples of recovery to their peers.
- Individuals will need to successfully complete a state approved training in order to qualify to take the Wisconsin Peer Specialist Certification Exam. Trainings are held statewide and schedules are posted to www.wicps.org. Exams are proctored online at the eight Independent Living Centers across the state. Results of the exams are housed at UW-Milwaukee who manages the databases for certification and recertification.
- After passing the certification exam Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialists (WI-CPS's) will need to complete 20 hours of continuing education every two years and submit these hours to UW-Milwaukee using the required recertification forms.
- A Certified Peer Specialist is a job title within the agency of employment where the role of a peer specialist is specific to the lived experience of that specialist. And how that experience is utilized to help others move forward on their recovery journey. Wisconsin Certified Peer Specialists are employed in a wide variety of areas which include but are not limited to: In and outpatient care, Veteran's Hospitals, homeless shelters, crisis intervention programs, mental health courts, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), Community Supports Programs (CSP), Independent Living Centers (ILC's), Peer-Run Respite, Community Recovery Services (CRS) and Drop-in/Clubhouse settings.
- When a Certified Peer Specialist is involved as an integral part of a persons recovery plan, national statistics show that there is a reduction in hospital stays, crisis intervention and emergency room visits and individuals stay in recovery longer. Peer Support is an Evidence Based Practice (EBP).

Wisconsin Peer Specialists-Igniting Recovery

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