

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 5574100

Certified Peer Specialist 1, Grade 11	5574100
Certified Peer Specialist 2, Grade 14	5574200

Brief Description of Class Series

Certified Peer Specialists possess certification to provide advocacy and support services to individuals with mental illness from a lived-experience and non-clinical perspective in emergency, inpatient, outpatient, community, and residential settings. Incumbents serve as role models; assist individuals in the development and application of skills and strategies for empowerment and successful community living; teach effective coping strategies and wellness management skills based on personal experience; and assist individuals in obtaining and accessing benefits, services, and supports essential to recovery.

Positions are non-competitive and classified in the Office of Mental Health.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Certified Peer Specialist 1: full performance level; interacts with individuals as a peer and serves as a role model; provides non-clinical support services; advocates for the needs of individuals; facilitates the establishment of support systems and services; teaches skills, techniques, and strategies for empowerment and successful community living; and may mentor and train non-certified Peer Specialists.

Certified Peer Specialist 2: supervisory level; leads peer programs and services; and supervises Certified Peer Specialists 1 and non-certified Peer Specialists.

Related Classes

Peer Specialists provide advocacy and non-clinical support services to individuals with mental illness in emergency, inpatient, outpatient, community, and residential settings at the Office of Mental Health. Peer Specialists and Certified Peer Specialists perform similar duties and are primarily distinguished by the training, experience, and credentials incumbents possess.

Addictions Counselor Assistants assist in the delivery of addiction treatment and recovery programs under the supervision of Addictions Counselors 2 or 3; and participate in individual and group counseling, crisis intervention, treatment and discharge planning, care coordination, and case management activities for individuals with substance use disorders in Addiction Treatment Centers operated by the Office of Addiction Services and Supports.

Illustrative Duties

Certified Peer Specialist 1

Serves as a role model and provides advocacy and support services to individuals.

- Assists individuals in identifying, developing, and practicing personalized coping and crisis management skills to deal with their psychiatric symptoms.
- Interacts with individuals as a peer and shares common experiences; and assists individuals in identifying areas in which they need support.
- Organizes and facilitates self-help groups and activities; teaches self-help techniques and group process skills; and facilitates the establishment of peer, natural, and social support networks.
- Helps individuals carry out tasks defined in their treatment plans, and actively participate in their treatment planning process.
- Instructs and assists individuals in identifying or clarifying rehabilitation and recovery goals, and in developing daily living, educational, social, vocational, and other skills for empowerment and successful community living.
- Assists individuals in understanding and obtaining access to available community resources and benefits; provides information; and links individuals to essential supports, such as legal, housing, education, medical, and financial services.
- Advocates for the needs of individuals; and provides education and training on their perspectives to other mental health and human service providers.

May mentor and train non-certified Peer Specialists.

Certified Peer Specialist 2

In addition to performing any of the above duties, performs the full range of supervisory duties for lower-level Peer Specialists; plans, develops, implements, and evaluates peer programs and services; and serves as the discipline head for Peer Services.

Minimum Qualifications

Certified Peer Specialist 1

Non-Competitive: current certification as a New York Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS) by the New York Peer Specialist Certification Board (NYPSCB).

Certified Peer Specialist 2

Non-Competitive: current certification as an NYCPS by the NYPSCB and two years of post-certification experience as an NYCPS.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum qualifications for appointment or examination.

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