

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

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 5575200

Peer Specialist 2, Grade 11

Brief Description of Class

Peer Specialists 2 provide and supervise the provision of advocacy and non-clinical support services to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in program, community, and residential settings. Incumbents assist individuals in the development and application of skills and strategies for empowerment and successful community living; organize groups and teach self-help techniques and activities; and assist individuals in accessing and obtaining support services.

Positions are non-competitive and classified in the Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Distinguishing Characteristics

Peer Specialist 2: supervisory level; leads regional peer programs and advocacy services; and supervises Peer Specialists.

Related Classes

Peer Specialists provide advocacy and non-clinical support services to individuals with mental illness and intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in emergency, inpatient, outpatient, community, and residential settings at the Office of Mental Health and OPWDD.

Illustrative Duties

Peer Specialist 2

Performs the full range of supervisory duties for lower-level Peer Specialists; serves as a role model; and provides advocacy and support services to individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities.

- Leads, organizes, and facilitates advocacy activities; teaches advocacy techniques and group process skills; and facilitates the establishment of peer, natural, and social support networks.
- Interacts with individuals, parents, and caretakers, and shares common experiences; and assists individuals in identifying areas in which they need support.
- Helps individuals carry out tasks defined in their treatment plans and may assist in actively participating in the treatment planning process.
- Provides input to various OPWDD divisions in developing policies, procedures, training, and direction using lived experiences.
- Collaborates with agency employees to ensure services are easily accessible and understandable.
- Provides feedback and suggestions on effective communications and the use of plain language.
- Instructs and assists individuals in identifying or clarifying 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 intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and human service providers.
- Helps individuals work collaboratively with other government agencies, businesses, and the disability community to brainstorm new ideas and create innovative solutions that allow individual with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to live and work independently.

Minimum Qualifications

Peer Specialist 2

Non-Competitive: one year of experience as a Peer Specialist, or three years of experience participating in self-help activities, peer support or advocacy programs, or similar organizations.

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.

Date: 2/2026

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