

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers – Peer Certification

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Frequently Asked Questions & Answers – Peer Certification

What type of organization is the Peer Support Coalition?

The Peer Support Coalition of Florida (PSCFL) was formed in 2012 and established as a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization in 2016. PSCFL serves as a state-wide network dedicated to advancing peer support in Florida. In 2020 PSCFL was awarded a grant for the Peer Experience National Technical Assistance Center (PENTAC), becoming one of SAMHSA's 5 National Consumer Technical Assistance Centers.

PSCFL does not provide direct peer support services. PSCFL provides training and education for peers (individuals living with mental health or substance use challenges), aspiring recovery peer specialists, and those certified and working on continuing education, supervisory development, and peer leadership.

What is a Peer?

A person we identify with in some capacity. The categories can range from age and gender to sexual orientation to shared language. In behavioral health, a peer is usually used to refer to someone who shares the experience of living with a mental health disorder and/or substance use disorder.

What is Peer Support?

The process of giving and receiving encouragement and assistance to achieve long-term recovery and well-being. Peers offer emotional support, share knowledge, teach skills, provide practical assistance, and connect people with resources, opportunities, communities of support, and other people.

What is a CRPS (Certified Recovery Peer Specialist)?

Defined as an individual who self-identifies as a person who has direct personal experience living in recovery from mental health and/or substance use condition, has the desire to use their experiences to help others with their recovery, is willing to publicly identify as a person living in recovery to educate, role model, and provide hope to others about the reality of recovery, and has had the proper training and experience to work in a provider role.

CRPS credentials also include endorsements to demonstrate the certified professional's lived experience, such as Adult, Family, Veteran, and Youth. The CRPS credential is recognized for billable services by Florida's State Medicaid Plan. More information can be found here:

<https://flcertificationboard.org/certifications/certified-recovery-peers-specialist/>

How do I become a Peer Specialist?

To become a peer specialist in Florida, you must have a minimum education of a Highschool Diploma or GED, complete the 40-hour content area training, and take and pass the state exam with the Florida Certification Board. Complete information regarding the process can be found at the links below:

[CRPS Standards and Requirements Tables](#)

[Candidate Guide: Application Process](#)

What kind of training do I need, and where can I get it?

You will need 40 total clock hours of training divided among 8 content areas. The form in the link below fully explains the core content areas and the required hours in each area.

[CRPS Training Verification Form](#)

PSCFL provides the Peer Experience Certified Recovery Peer Specialist Training (PECRPS)

https://members.peersupportfl.org/events/event_list.

There are other provider options for training that will satisfy the core content areas. The following lists options that we are aware of. This list is not regularly updated. For the most updated list, visit the Florida Certification Board's website.

Fresh Start of Miami Dade <https://www.freshstartmiami.org/>

LSF Health Systems <https://www.lsfhealthsystems.org/training-menu/>

NAMI *Connections and Peer to Peer training that together fill the required content-*

<https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Support-Groups/NAMI-Connection>

<https://www.nami.org/Support-Education/Mental-Health-Education/NAMI-Peer-to-Peer>

Choices Recovery <https://www.choicesrecoverytrainings.com/>

CASAT Peer Specialist Training <https://www.mycasat.org/courses/peer-support/>

DCF- <https://www.myflfamilies.com/services/training> (scroll down the page to find the list of trainers to reach out to)

What are the next steps after you complete CRPS training (application process)?

- Create a profile: <https://flcertificationboard.org/>. We recommend using a personal email address vs. a work email. People tend to move on from work positions, and you are more likely to keep and remember your personal email address. And in case it applies to you: the name on your profile and application must match your driver's license.
- Download/fill out and email the [CRPS Scholarship Application](#). Do not start your application until you hear back!
- Once you hear back, you can start your application. Be sure to take a photo of whatever education you are going to submit and save it as a pdf to attach to your application (anything from GED on up)

- Have a list ready of 4 people who will provide your recommendations. Name, position, email, and phone number. One of them must be in a supervisory role. It is not required that the recommendations be from peer organizations.
- The **single-source training verification** form can be used if all 40 training hours come from a single source.
- More on the application process can be found here: [Candidate Guide: Application Process](#).

What do I need to study for the CRPS exam?

The Peer Support Coalition hosts monthly study sessions. [Register here for an exam study session](#).

Other great resources you can use to study are:

National Association of Peer Supporters: <https://www.peersupportworks.org/>

SAMHSA: <https://www.samhsa.gov/brss-tacs/recovery-support-tools/peers>

DBHIDS Peer Support Toolkit: <https://dbhids.org/peer-support-toolkit/>

Florida Certification Board Code of Ethics: [FL Code of Ethics](#)

[CRPS Training Self-Assessment and Test Preparation Guide](#)

Where do I go to get my CEUs (Continuing Education Units) for my CRPS credential?

The CRPS credential requires 10 CEUs annually. They must be completed before you renew your certification. You must renew by the end of June each year. Proof of CEUs does not get attached to the renewal; instead, the CRPS keeps their own records. Once a year, in September, the FCB does an audit. If chosen for the audit, you will supply your certificates at that time.

Eligible CE Training Content

The FCB does not mandate continuing education in a specific topic. The certified professional is responsible for attending training related to at least one or more of the credential's performance domains: Advocacy, Mentoring, Recovery Support, Cultural and Linguistic Competence, Motivational Interviewing, Vicarious Trauma/Self Care, Professional Responsibility, and Whole Health. (The same course cannot be claimed more than once during each credentialed period, even if the course was taken annually).

Approved Education Providers

PSCFL is an FCB-approved CEU training provider. Our provider number is #5270A

Here you can connect with PSCFL's educational services:

[Training & Event Portal](#)

[On-Demand Training Portal](#)

Continuing education credits must be earned from an FCB-recognized and/or approved CEU training provider. Some training providers hold approval from other entities that FCB recognizes; others apply for and hold FCB Education and Training Provider status. List of approved providers: https://flcertificationboard.org/education-training/providers/?fwp_types=peer-services.

The FCB will honor CEs issued by any of the following providers:

- College or university coursework offered by institutions holding Federal Department of Education and/or Council of Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) recognized accreditation.
- Training providers approved to offer CEs by other state or national professional licensing or certification boards, i.e., FADA, DCF, etc.
- FCB-approved education and training providers. The FCB will award FCB Education and Training Provider status and a provider number to approved applicants. A searchable database of approved FCB Education and Training Providers is maintained on FCB's website, www.flcertificationboard.org, under Education & Training.

Many free courses can be found for Continuing Education on many websites, including:

PSCFL- Training & Events Tab- Categories- CEUs offered: <https://members.peersupportfl.org/events/>

Magellan Healthcare: <https://www.magellanhealthcare.com/about/recovery-resiliency/training/accred/>

NAADAC :<https://www.naadac.org/education>

FADAA: https://www.fadaa.org/page/CEU_FAQs

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network: <https://www.cfbhn.org/webinars/#>

LSF Health Systems: <https://www.lsfhealthsystems.org/training-institute-2/>

More information can be found here: [Candidate Guide: Maintenance & Renewal Process.](#)

What is the Peer Match Program?

PSCFL provides a peer matching service for peers seeking hours toward certification. We also support peers seeking new employment opportunities. We partner with provider organizations across the state to post open positions. We engage peers seeking hours and employment to post their resumes on the Career Center. We provide one-on-one matching of peers with open positions. The peer match program is open to all Florida peers and organizations seeking to hire peers or integrate peer services into the organization.

How can I participate in the Peer Match Program?

Please email peermatch@peersupportfl.org to set up an introductory meeting with the Peer Match Coordinator. You may also visit the [Career Center](#) for a current listing of open positions.