

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is recovery and lived experience?

Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. Lived experience is the knowledge gained through direct, firsthand involvement in your own life journey. Being in recovery means that you are able to talk about your experiences candidly, are in a place where you can help others, and live a life that is meaningful to you. It often means that you have not been hospitalized or dealt with legal problems associated with your behavioral health challenge for at least one year. It does not mean that you do not have any symptoms or do not take medication to manage symptoms, but that symptoms no longer significantly interfere with your daily activities.

Are there any application fees or costs?

No! All of our peer support specialist trainings are free thanks to grant funding. Travel and accommodation fees may apply depending on the training location and your place of residence.

How long does it take to become certified?

Typically it takes 3 - 6 months to become certified. Once you submit your application, you will receive confirmation that your materials have been received.

When is the next CPSS/FPSS training?

Please take a look at our training calendar on our website [here](#).

Is there a waitlist?

Yes, there is a waitlist for the Certified Peer Support Specialist training. The Family Peer Support Specialist training does not have a waitlist.

How do I choose which training is right for me?

Most of our peer support certification courses are in-person, 5-days a week. We do offer one hybrid certified peer support specialist training that is a mix of self-paced online modules and 2 days of in-person training. On our website [here](#) you can read an in depth description of each training agency to find the best fit for you. Our Family Peer Support Specialist training is virtual.

I don't currently live in Utah but an agency in Utah wants to hire me as a peer support specialist. What should I do?

If your agency services Utah residents, then you are eligible for certification in Utah.

I am certified as a peer support specialist in another state, will I automatically be certified in Utah?

No, you need to complete the application process for certification in Utah. You can apply for out of state reciprocity by submitting a copy of your current and active certification from another state and a copy of your training agenda and learning objectives. Next you will complete an online exam. If you are unable to submit these documents or it does not meet the requirements of a training program in Utah, you will need to complete the training in Utah.

Is my certification status private and confidential?

Certification with SUMH is public and your certification status will be publicly available. You can verify a certification on our website by clicking the "verify peer support certification" button.

How can I earn my CEUs?

You can earn continuing education units (CEUs) from a variety of sources. For example, conferences are a great way to earn multiple CEUs at one time and webinars are online learning opportunities. You can also earn CEUs at other workshops, seminars, and presentations that are online or face-to-face. There is a CEU resource spreadsheet on our website [here](#).

My certification lapsed. What is the process to recertify an expired certification?

We allow a grace period of 3 months and after that, we will ask you to submit documentation of your CEUs along with your recertification application. If your certification has been expired for more than 6 months, you will need to retake the exam and pass to recertify. If your certification has expired for more than one year, you will need to retake the training.

How do I report an ethical violation of a peer support specialist?

We have instructions on our website. Click on the "report and ethical violation" button. When we receive a report, we work with our assistant attorney general to investigate.

Will my ethical violation report be anonymous?

We try our best to keep the whistleblower anonymous and we do not share who the whistleblower is. However, if the allegations are substantiated and the certification is revoked, the peer support specialist has the right to submit an appeal which may go to an administrative hearing with a judge. As a result, there is a chance the reporter will be called as a witness.

Does a peer support specialist certification entitle me a job?

Being certified as a peer support specialist does not entitle you to employment.

I lost my certificate. How do I obtain a new one?

Contact SUMH to verify your certification and we will issue a new copy of your certificate. For CPSS email utahpeersupport@utah.gov and for FPSS email familypeersupport@utah.gov.

I want to get certified but I need help with the application process - What do I do next?

For assistance with the CPSS application process, please contact utahpeersupport@utah.gov and familypeersupport@utah.gov for assistance with the FPSS application process.