

For Immediate Release on May 20, 2016

**New York Peer Specialist Certification Board Announces
New NYCPS Certification and Upgrade Program for
NYCPS-P**

The New York Peer Specialist Certification Board is pleased to announce the launch of the **New York Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS)** certification. The certification is intended for candidates that have been providing peer services in a work or volunteer setting for 1 year or more.

The NYCPS standards:

- 1) **Eligibility** - All candidates must be current or former recipients of mental health services; have been diagnosed with a mental health diagnosis; consider themselves in recovery from a mental health diagnosis and publicly self-identify/disclose their recovery status.
- 2) **Education** - Hold a minimum of a high school diploma or equivalent
- 3) **Training** - Complete all 12 Core Courses of the Academy of Peer Services (APS) PLUS an additional 5 APS courses (15 hours minimum)
- 4) **Letters of Recommendation** - Request 3 letters of recommendation including a letter from current or most recent supervisor
- 5) **Work/Volunteer Experience** - Document 2000 hours of peer work/volunteer experience under the supervision of a qualified supervisor
- 6) **Code of Ethical Conduct** - Endorse the NYPSCB Code of Ethical Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures
- 7) **Renewal Standard** - Agree to continue to obtain at minimum 10 hours of peer specialist training per year in order to maintain the NYCPS

In February 2016, the NYCPS was first offered to candidates already certified as New York Certified Peer Specialist - Provisional (NYCPS-P) and able to document the NYCPS upgrade requirements. New online submission guidelines and the NYCPS certification standards will be posted soon on the NYPSCB website.

For questions about the NYCPS, please visit www.nypeerspecialist.org or contact the NYPSCB office.