



The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc.
Bailiwick Office Campus, Unit 12, 252 W. Swamp Road, Doylestown, PA 18901-2444
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Information/Intervention Line: 1-800-221-6333

The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc.

Supporting Youth Recovery Enhanced Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) Certificate Training Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

- 1. Do I have to be a person in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder in order to participate in the training and obtain the enhanced CRS certificate?**

Peer-based addiction recovery support services are provided by individuals with lived experience of addiction and recovery. To that end, personal lived experience with addiction and recovery is the critical component of being a peer and a requirement for this certificate program. The qualified applicants are required to have personal, lived recovery experience in a continuous manner for a minimum of 18 months to be eligible for the CRS credential. The Pennsylvania Certification Board describes recovery as a highly-individualized journey that requires abstinence from all mood and mind-altering substances that may be supported through the use of medication that is appropriately prescribed and taken. This journey is a voluntary maintained lifestyle that includes the pursuit of spiritual, emotional, mental and physical well-being that is often supported by others.

- 2. If I have my CRS credential already, do I have to take all of the classes in order to complete the certificate program?**

The answer is yes, all participants must complete the entire 90 hours of classroom training and 100 hours of field placement activities. The training curriculum for this certificate program has been tailored to address the specific experiences and needs of young people and their families. While some training topics will remain the same (i.e. Confidentiality, Ethics and Boundaries, Recovery Management), the content, activities and discussions will be very much different from that of traditional CRS classes.



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3. Do I have to be “young” in order to participate in this training program? What counts as “young?”

While our hope is to primarily train individuals aged 18 to 26, participants do not have to currently be in this age range in order to apply. If a participant is more mature, they should be able to articulate their experience with young people who are at risk for or have developed addiction challenges as well as their plans for how they will use this certificate to work with young people and their families.

4. What kind of jobs can I get with this certification?

CRS provided Peer-based Recovery Support Services are reimbursable in 23 counties throughout Pennsylvania, with more counties expected to join in. In a growing variety of settings ranging from Recovery Community Centers to treatment facilities and hospitals, CRS’s can provide an array of services to individuals before, during, after and sometimes in lieu of formal clinical treatment. The Supporting Youth Recovery enhanced CRS Certificate, already supported by the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB), will demonstrate a unique knowledge base and skill set that will serve as an asset when seeking employment.

5. Will training participants need to take the CRS exam through the Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) for certification at the end of the course or will they receive the certification through The Council?

Participants who complete all of the program requirements will receive the *Peer Paraprofessional Certificate in Supporting Youth Recovery* through The Council and be eligible to sit for the CRS test with the PCB as well. While The Council will support all individuals through the process of applying for the PCB CRS exam, participants will ultimately be responsible for applying to take the exam with the PCB and paying the \$125 PCB CRS exam fee required at time of PCB CRS exam application.



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6. What costs are covered by the participant tuition scholarships?

Participant tuition scholarships cover the cost of all trainings, including instructor time, binders, handouts, training materials and supplies as well as field placement materials and supplies.

7. Is transportation included with the training?

No, transportation is not included. All training participants are responsible for providing and covering the cost of their own transportation. This includes transportation to and from training classes as well as to and from the assigned field placement site. While all attempts will be made to work with each individual to identify the training location and a field placement site that is most geographically convenient, participants should be prepared to provide their own transportation.

8. How can I learn more about the Certified Recovery Specialist credential?

The Pennsylvania Certification Board website provides information on the CRS credential:
<https://www.pacertboard.org/certifications>