

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

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q. Do I have to be a person in long-term recovery from a substance use disorder in order to participate in the Supporting Youth Recovery CRS Program?

A. Yes. 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 this program. 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 wellbeing that is often supported by others.

Q. What is the difference between the Supporting Youth Recovery CRS Program and the traditional Certified Recovery Specialist training?

A.

	Standard CRS training	Supporting Youth Recovery CRS Program
Length of training	~10 training days	6 months total
66 hours of PCB standardized curriculum	✓	✓
12 hours homework	✓	✓
30+ hours training related to youth & recovery		✓
Peer supervision groups		✓
Professional Development assignments		✓
Internship		✓
Meets requirements to apply for the CRS exam	✓	✓

Q. If I have my CRS credential already, do I have to take all of the classes in order to complete the Supporting Youth Recovery CRS Program?

A. The answer is yes, all participants must complete the entire 17 weeks of classroom training and 100 hours of internship, assignments and documentation. The training curriculum for this certificate program has been tailored to address the specific experiences and needs of young people and their families. While the core 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 standard CRS classes.

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

A. While ideal candidates are individuals aged 18 to 30, 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.

Q. Why does this program have an internship?

A. CRS provided Peer-based Recovery Support Services are reimbursable in counties throughout Pennsylvania. 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. Some counties have CRS positions specifically for youth.

The Supporting Youth Recovery 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.

Q. 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?

A. The PCB is the only administrator of the Certified Recovery Specialist exam. Participants who complete all of the program requirements will receive the Peer Paraprofessional Certificate in Supporting Youth Recovery through The Council and will have the required training to sit for the CRS test with the PCB as well. While The Council will support all individuals though 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 \$150 PCB CRS exam fee required at time of PCB CRS exam application.

Q. What costs are covered by the scholarships?

A. 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.

Q. There's a stipend?

A. Yes. Those accepted into the Supporting Youth Recovery CRS Program will receive a stipend every two weeks for no longer than six months. For each bi-weekly stipend payment, participants must meet weekly attendance and assignment requirements. The stipend is being made available as a way to assist with any costs incurred by attending the program, i.e. transportation, time taken off of work, and to cover the cost of the CRS exam.

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

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

Q. Where can I find information on trainings for the traditional Certified Recovery Specialist credential?

A. You will find that information on the PCB's website.

Information on trainings provided by The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc. can be found here: <https://www.councilsepa.org/programs/PTE/professional-trainings/recovery-specialist-training/>