

KENTUCKY SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER ON-LINE PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING



Institute for
Health Innovation

WHAT IS A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST?

Peer support is the social and emotional support provided by persons with a mental health condition to others sharing a similar mental health condition to bring about a desired social or personal change. A Peer Support Specialist guides clients toward the identification and achievement of specific goals defined by the client and specified in the treatment plan. The job of a certified Kentucky Peer Support Specialist is not to replace current clinical mental health staff but to offer additional support to people in their efforts to recover.

WHAT IS THE ON-LINE KENTUCKY PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST TRAINING AT NKU?

NKU is approved by the Kentucky Department of Behavioral Health to offer Adult Peer Support Specialist Training for Substance Use Disorder in a part-time flexible on-line program. This is a 7 week 45-hour program runs from 14 October 2020 through DATE. It is program that will require approximately 6 hours per week of your time – at times that are convenient to you.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND?

A peer support specialist is someone who is trained to use their recovery experience to support clients as a part of a treatment team. Anyone who has a demonstrated pattern of recovery from addiction over the past two years, is 18 years of age or older, has a GED or high school diploma, and has two personal references who can attest to their readiness for work in a peer support role is eligible to apply. Please note completely all the weeks of training and then passing the Peer Support Certification exam are required for Kentucky certification as an Adult Peer Support Specialist. Please apply on-line at nku.edu/ihi/peer-support.

IS THIS AN NKU COURSE?

This training is an NKU course; however, you do not need to be accepted into NKU to take this course. Upon successful completion of the course and the exam, you will not only be certified to be a Kentucky Peer Support Specialist, but you will also have earned 1 college credit!

AN ADULT PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST:

- Uses relevant personal stories to assist other clients through their experience.
- Serves as a role model to clients.
- Encourages client voice and choice during development and implementation of plans.
- Supports clients by:
 - Attending team meetings on their behalf of or at their request, or
 - Accompanying them to meetings upon their request.
- Empowers clients to have the confidence to be a self-advocate.
- Helps providers or other individuals understand the importance of integrating client voice and choice in services and support within a system of care.
- Promotes socialization, recovery, self-advocacy preservation, and the enhancement of community living skills for clients
- Completes and maintains documentation of a minimum of six hours of related training or education in each subsequent year after successful completion of the adult peer support specialist training.

WHAT IS THE COST TO ATTEND?

All tuition and fees are completely covered by a Health Resources and Services Administration federal grant. There is no cost to you! The application deadline for the October 14th class is midnight on October 7th. We will need to have received both your application and your letters of recommendation by then.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE CONFIRMATION I'M REGISTERED FOR TRAINING?

Once complete application materials are submitted and your application has been accepted, you will receive an email confirming your acceptance and registration for the training. It will also contain the next steps for you so that you will be able to access the course on-line.

Additional questions? Email hardcastle@nku.edu for answers!