

To Whom It May Concern:

Mental Health America (MHA) offers the National Certified Peer Specialist (NCPS) credential, the first national advanced peer support specialist credential. Supporting a peer specialist to achieve and maintain the NCPS credential benefits the peer's employers, colleagues, and most importantly, the individuals they support.

Earning the NCPS credential requires a minimum of 3,000 hours experience and prior state certification with a minimum of 40 hours training or completion of one of MHA's approved trainings. NCPS credentialed peers must pass a comprehensive exam developed from the standards set forth by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the International Association of Peer Supporters (iNAPS), and a Role Delineation Study conducted with the feedback of thousands of peers. The exam requires significant knowledge across six domains of practice, including Foundations of Peer Support; Foundations of Health Care Systems; Mentoring, Shared Learning, and Relationship Building; Activation and Self-Management; Advocacy; and Professional and Ethical Responsibilities.

Recertification requirements ensure that NCPSs maintain high levels of knowledge and stay up-to-date on the latest in the field—with 20 Continuing Education units required every two years.

The MHA NCPS credential, developed in partnership with the Florida Certification Board (FCB), is a legally defensible certification, developed under the strictest procedures according to the National Commission for Certifying Agencies' Standards for Accreditation of Certification.

NCPS credentialed peers have demonstrated that they are at the forefront of a rapidly expanding workforce and that they have a strong commitment to leadership in a field that transforms systems, services, and outcomes. To learn more about the value of the NCPS credential, visit [NationalPeerSpecialist.org](http://NationalPeerSpecialist.org) or call 703-838-7537.

Sincerely,



Patrick Hendry  
Vice President of Peer Advocacy, Supports, and Services