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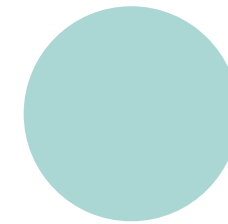
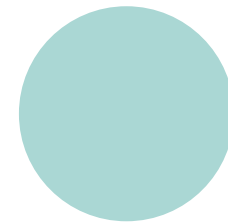
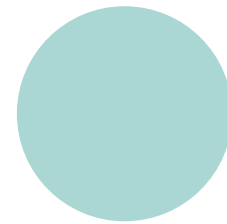
Mental Health & Addiction Services

CERTIFIED PEER SUPPORT & RECOVERY PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIAL

Elsa Ward, Director of Recovery Community Affairs
2025

Defining Peer Support Worker

Recovery Peer Support workers are trained individuals with lived and/or living experience with a behavioral health condition and have been successful in their recovery process to help others experiencing similar situations. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse.



Defining Community Health Worker

Community health worker is a public health outreach professional with an in-depth understanding of the experience, language, culture and socioeconomic needs of the community and who provides a range of services, including, but not limited to, outreach, engagement, education, coaching, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, care coordination, research related to social determinants of health and basic screenings and assessments of any risks associated with social determinants of health.

Certification Vision

A credential that integrates Recovery Support Specialists and Recovery Coaches under one certification, administered by a credentialing-body, and is in alignment with SAMHSA's National Standards.

Building a strong Recovery Peer Support workforce

Ensuring all individuals trained have been taught SAMHSA's Twelve Core Competencies with indicators and DMHAS' Peer Ethics & Values (2024) while keeping "Specialties" intact.

Ensuring the credential maintains the highest ethical and professional standards, with real-time verification for employers.

Ensuring the Recovery Community and stakeholders have active participation in the development of the credential.

Origin of CPSRP Credential

2018. The idea of an integrated Recovery Peer Support certification under one credential was adopted by previous DMHAS leadership.

2018. DMHAS Office of Recovery Community Affairs Lived-Experience Advisory Committee created a blueprint.

2018. DMHAS and Yale-PRCH met with CT's two Peer Support/Coaching Training Organizations to collaborate.

2019. The Connecticut Certification Board (CCB) was asked to assist in the creation of the credential with SMEs, a psychometrician and DMHAS.





2019. DMHAS and Yale-PRCH posted a “Call for Commitment” to the Recovery Community to assist in the development of the credential requirements.

2020. A Scoring Committee was formed and selected candidates for an Advisory Committee and Subject Matter Expert Committee-SME.

2021. The Administrative Planning Team was developed to start implementation (DMHAS, PRCH, CCB).

2022. The Advisory Committee commenced-facilitated by Yale-PRCH.

2023. The SME Committee commenced- facilitated by the CCB, Prometric- psychometrician, and DMHAS.

Our Process

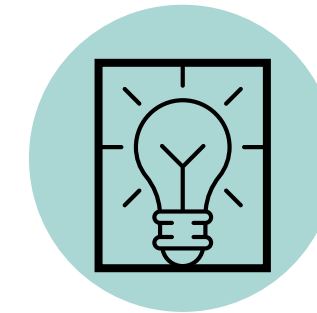
Having various committees that included training organizations, Recovery Support Specialists, Recovery Coaches, a psychometrician, the recovery community-at-large, and employers.

Guided by the recovery community

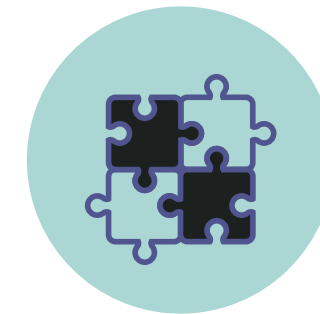
Training Curriculum



Recovery Community-at-large



CCB, Prometric, and SMEs



Engagement with Everyone



Where We Are Today



The Grandparenting application process for the credential is open and ongoing.



Informational Sessions and Open Office Hours are ongoing for Employers and the Recovery Community-at-large.



Approved Training Organizations begin use of the new curriculums by February 2nd, 2026 or before.

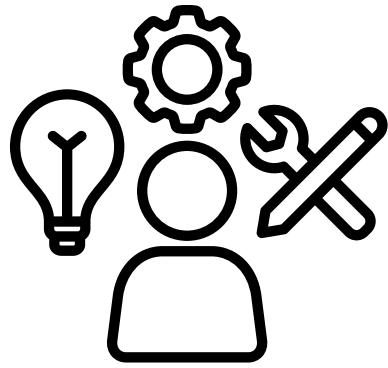


Testing the beta exam will begin in January 2026 for the creation of the examination.

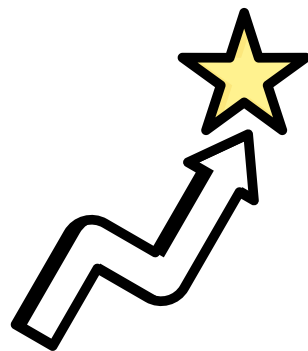


The new credential requirements will be activated on February 2nd, 2026.

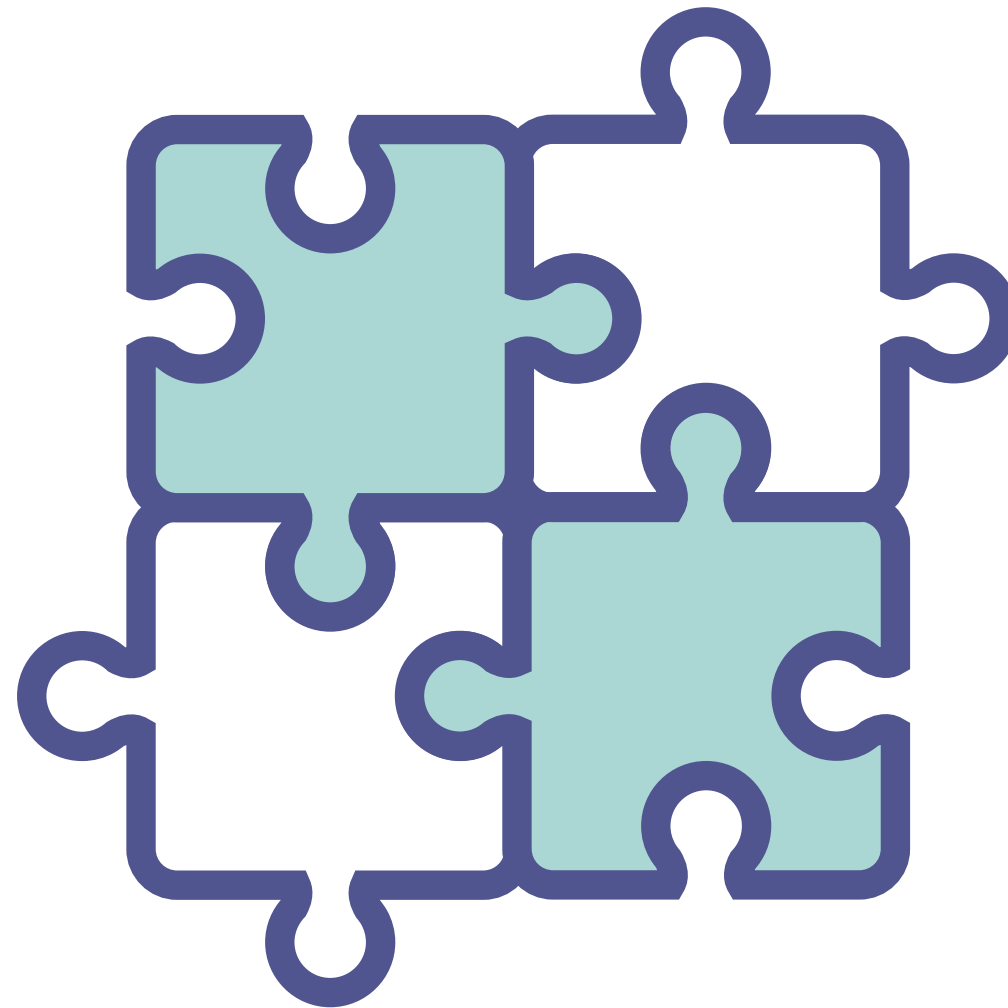
STRENGTHS



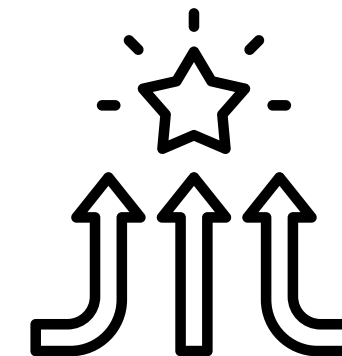
Everyone trained will have the same base skills and knowledge regardless of where they are trained.



There is a higher expectation of the Certified Peer Support & Recovery Professional worker.



The credential is administered and overseen by a credentialing organization.



The credential is alignment with SAMHSA's National Standards.

Questions?