

Become a Certified Peer Support Specialist

Turn your own experience with recovery into a career helping others. This is your simple guide to getting certified in California — what it is, who can apply, and the four steps to get there.

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

A Certified Medi-Cal Peer Support Specialist uses their own lived experience to support others on their recovery journey. Peers help people feel heard, stay engaged, and connect to care.

The certification is run by CalMHSA and recognized by California counties that offer the Medi-Cal Peer Support benefit.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- Are 18 or older
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Have personal experience with recovery from mental illness or substance use — your own, or as a family member or caregiver
- Are willing to share your experience and follow the Code of Ethics

FOUR STEPS TO GET CERTIFIED

1

Check if you qualify

Confirm you meet the eligibility requirements above.

2

Finish training

Complete the 80-hour course through a CalMHSA-approved provider.

3

Apply online

Register, then upload your ID, diploma, and training certificate. Plan for about 45 minutes.

4

Pass the exam

Take the certification exam online or at a testing center.

80

Hours of required training

120

Exam questions, over 2.5 hours

10

Languages the exam is offered in

\$250

Application + exam (training paid separately and paid directly to training agency)

Ready to start?

Create your account and find approved training providers at www.capeercertification.org. Questions? Call (279) 234-0699 or email PeerCertification@calmhsa.org.