

CERTIFIED PEER SPECIALISTS

Since its beginning in 2001, Georgia's Certified Peer Specialist Project has led the nation in developing and providing innovative peer support that promotes hope, personal responsibility, empowerment, education, and self-determination.

From that first class of 35 peers, our Certified Peer Specialists now serve communities throughout the state, in a variety of settings, supporting peers in skill-building, problem-solving, community development, and personalized goal-setting.

Throughout the years, we have continued to increase the impact of the Certified Peer Specialist Project by seeking out new training and continuing education opportunities, but our Mission has remained the same.

OUR MISSION

It is the mission of the Georgia Certified Peer Specialist Project to empower self-directed recovery from behavioral health challenges through strengths-based peer support, education, advocacy, and implementation of innovative recovery approaches.

We are a community of peers working together to build a system of care that recognizes and supports the needs of each person.

CONTACT

For additional information on the Certified Peer Specialist Project, please email CPSproject@gmhcnc.org, or contact us at 800-297-6146.

GEORGIA MENTAL HEALTH CONSUMER NETWORK

From Georgia's very first gathering of consumers of behavioral health services in the fall of 1990, where 30 peers from across the state each contributed one dollar to begin publishing a newsletter that would be an independent voice for Georgia's behavioral health community, the fundamentals of the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network were formed: Our voices matter, and we can improve the quality of life for ourselves and our peers.

Over 25 years later, GMHCN has become a national model for developing and implementing innovative peer support services that enable people living with behavioral health challenges to be part of a dynamic peer workforce that reaches every corner of the state. Through continuing advocacy, education, and outreach programs, GMHCN has made significant progress in reducing stigma, and empowering individuals to lead self-directed lives of purpose, meaning, and productivity.

The Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network is led and governed by peers in recovery from behavioral health challenges. Our priorities are established by peers at our annual conference, first held in 1993 with over 700 attendees from Georgia's behavioral health community. To learn more about the work we do, or join us in our efforts, please visit our website or give us a call. We are here for you, and we are here for Georgia.



1990 Lakeside Parkway, Suite 100
Tucker, Georgia 30084

Toll Free 800-297-6146

Phone 404-687-9487

Email info@gmhcnc.org

www.gmhcnc.org



PROVIDING PEER SUPPORT
FOR GEORGIA SINCE 2001

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for the Certified Peer Specialist training must have lived experience in recovery from a behavioral health concern, and a strong desire to identify themselves as a person in recovery from a behavioral health diagnosis (current or former consumer of behavioral health services).

- Hold a GED or High School diploma and be at least 18 years of age. An applicant may be requested to provide a copy of this document.
- Demonstrate strong reading comprehension and written communication skills as indicated by their responses on the pre-test.
- Have demonstrated experience with leadership, advocacy, or governance, and be well grounded in recovery (at least one year between identification of the behavioral health concern and application to the training).

TRAINING

This training is for current or former recipients of Behavioral Health services in Georgia, who have an interest in providing peer support services for people who are experiencing a behavioral health concern.

Five Certified Peer Specialist Trainings are held each year in locations throughout the state.

Each training lasts approximately two weeks (Monday through Friday of week one, and Monday through Thursday of week two). There are no classes or scheduled activities on the weekend.

There is an \$85 registration fee (due no later than the first day of training) that covers the cost of training materials. There may be additional costs for lodging depending on whether participants stay at the hotel where the training is held. Hotel costs will vary by location and generally range from \$500 to \$900 for the 2 week stay (excluding weekends). Staying at the hotel is not mandatory, but is recommended for participants with long commutes.

A very few scholarships for the lodging expense are available for each training, and the request for scholarship consideration is on the application form.

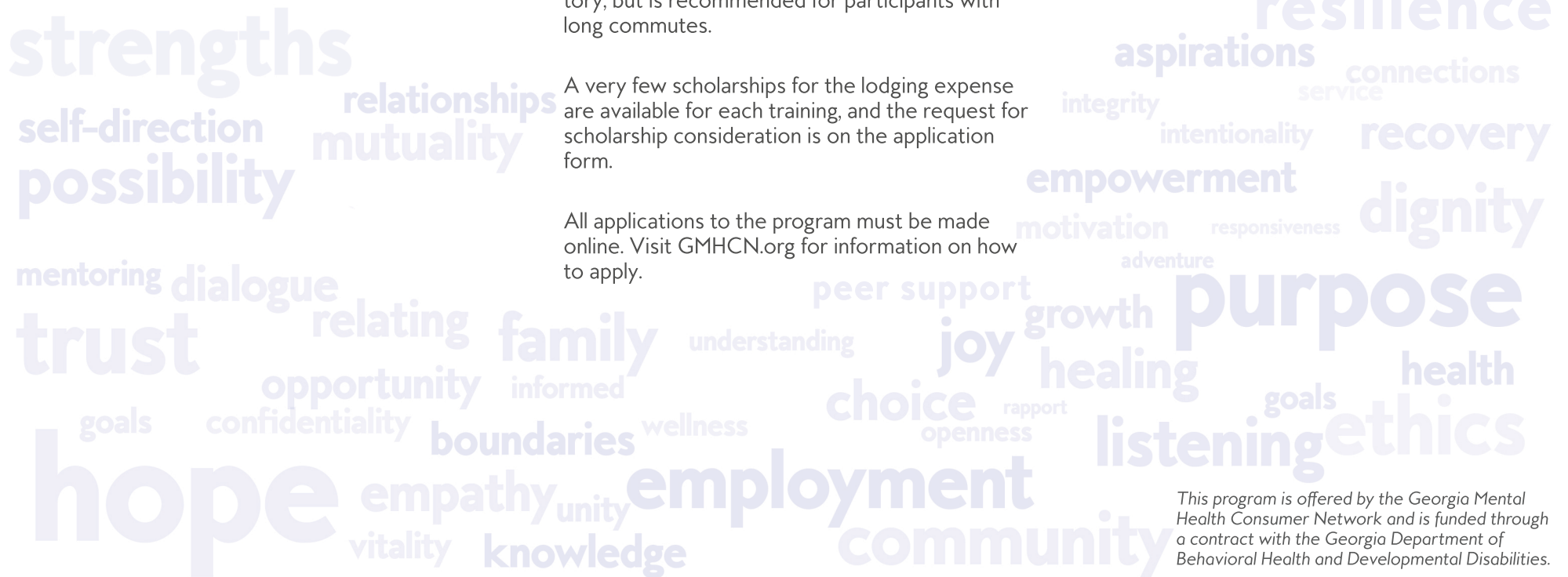
All applications to the program must be made online. Visit GMHCN.org for information on how to apply.

LIFE AS A CPS

Certified Peer Specialists are trained to promote hope, personal responsibility, education, empowerment, and self-determination in the communities where they serve.

The Certified Peer Specialist Training provided by the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network is nationally recognized for its quality and innovation, and graduates who maintain their certification are qualified to provide peer support services that are Medicaid-reimbursable through qualified programs, including Georgia's Community Service Boards.

In order to maintain active certification, graduates are required to achieve and report at least 12 hours of continuing education units each year, and to abide by the ethics guidelines of the Certified Peer Specialist Project.



This program is offered by the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network and is funded through a contract with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities.