



Peer Support Specialist, Family Support Partner, and Youth Support Specialist General Information

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The Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services (DAABHS) will be responsible for determining if Qualified Behavioral Health Providers (QBHP) employed by a DHS-certified Behavioral Health Agency meet the standards and can provide Medicaid-reimbursable Peer Support Specialist (PSS), Family Support Partner (FSP), or Youth Support Specialist (YSS) services.

If you are interested in submitting an application to become a DHS-approved PSS, FSP, or YSS that can bill Medicaid, please go to the Publications and Documents section on the DHS/DBHS website (<http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/about-dhs/dbhs>) and search for the Peer Support Specialist, Family Support Partner, and Youth Support Specialist Standards Manual for additional information and the application. The manual can be found under the sub-section titled Manuals.

Prior to submitting an application to DAABHS, several requirements must be met. These requirements are referenced within the PSS, FSP, and YSS manual. Specifically, an applicant must have completed an evidence-based training approved by DHS. The current DHS-approved trainer for all three types of Peer worker (PSS, FSP, & YSS) trainings is the MidSOUTH Training Academy. The following trainings are approved for Arkansas. These trainings must be attended in-person.

- The DHS-approved training model for a PSS is the Appalachian Model of Peer Specialist Training Curriculum.
- The DHS-approved training model for a FSP is the Arkansas Family Support Partner Training.
- The DHS-approved training model for a YSS is the Arkansas Youth Support Specialist Training.

The Arkansas Substance Abuse Certification Board (ASACB) also has a certification to become a Peer Recovery Specialist (PRS). The PRS has a different set of requirements and training for approval/certification, although the Core training is the same for the PSS & PRS—The Appalachian Model of Peer Specialist Training Curriculum. Information on the PRS certification can be found on the ASACB website at <http://www.asacb.com/home.html>.

Training Information

Please contact MidSOUTH Training Academy to inquire about further training information such as training dates, training requirements, or the registration process for PSS, FSP, and YSS trainings.

MidSOUTH Training Academy also provides other trainings that *support* Peer Services. These trainings *do not* take the place of the DHS-approved trainings for PSS, FSP, and/or YSS listed above.

Contact MidSOUTH staff, Charlotte Besch at cabesch@midsouth.ualr.edu or Michael Wyatt at mawyatt@midsouth.ualr.edu, for information on these trainings.

Application Quick Facts

- Applicant must be employed by a Behavioral Health Agency (BHA).
- Application must include the Medicaid number and site address for each location where the applicant will be providing services.
- Application must include a copy of the following supporting documents: HS Diploma or GED; a valid Arkansas driver's license; completion certificate of training as a Qualified Behavioral Health Provider by the BHA for which the applicant works; completion certificate for PSS, FSP, or YSS training; and attestation letter of two or more years of lived experience.