

# Lead Peer Model

The Lead Peer, distinct from the Peer Supervisor, is a team leader providing mentorship, guidance, and support to Peers (OMH NYCPS, OASAS CRPA, and provisionally certified), ensuring professional growth while safeguarding personal recovery. This role strengthens peer networks and creates a safe, supportive environment within organizations. The Lead Peer model has been shown to increase peer retention and team efficiency among mental health and addiction support providers.

## Required Certifications

- OASAS Certified Recovery Peer Advocate (CRPA) and/or
- OMH New York Certified Peer Specialist (NYCPS)

## Qualifications

- 1+ years experience as a certified peer
- Recommended additional completion of leadership/support/teamwork training

## Core Responsibilities

- Provide individual and group support meetings
- Offer mentorship and guidance from a peer perspective
- Facilitate team meetings to share resources and experiences
- Serve as a contact for outside providers
- Educate the organization on peer roles and boundaries
- Assist with credentialing, recertification, and exam prep
- Support peers in accessing recovery resources
- Promote safety by helping peers avoid triggering situations

## Role Significance

The Lead Peer is not a supervisor but a trusted support figure. This role creates a safe space for peers to seek help, maintain recovery, and thrive in their professional journey. The role is for someone with extensive experience working in a peer capacity who demonstrates leadership abilities. The Lead Peer is also an educational tool to help educate staff and providers on the roles and responsibilities of the peer position