



What is the Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) Program?

WHAT IS IT?

The Community Autism Peer Specialist (CAPS) Program is a wellness-oriented program. The CAPS program pairs an individual on the autism spectrum who has completed a peer support training program with other individuals on the spectrum to achieve their personal wellness and community integration goals. Through 1:1 mentoring and social activities, peer specialists support participants with building healthy community connections, developing self-advocacy skills and growing their personal relationships.

WHAT IS THE TRAINING?

If you are interested in helping others who are on the spectrum through your experiences, consider applying for the CAPS Training Program!

Applicants who are accepted will:

- Complete 75 hours of training over the course of several weeks
- Training will mostly take place in a classroom setting, with some hours completed online and in the community
- This training will prepare peer specialists to work with participants in their own communities and help bring their real-world knowledge and experiences as a person on the spectrum to guide program participants in achieving their personal goals

WHAT IS THE JOB?

Individuals who complete the peer support training program will be eligible to apply for a paid position as a CAPS Peer Specialist. While employment is not guaranteed, more job opportunities may become available as the program grows.

WHAT IS THE SERVICE?

The CAPS service is being piloted through Mental Health Partnerships (MHP). The service will help participants identify areas of interest, meaningful activities, and personal wellness. Peer specialists will also work with program participants on encouraging community living and participation. If you are interested in referring an individual to receive this service please contact Jim Markey at Mental Health Partnerships in Philadelphia County at jmarkey@mhphope.org or **(267) 507-3865**.

For more information about the CAPS program, please visit:

PhillyAP Website: <https://www.phillyautismproject.org/community-autism-peer-specialist-caps-program/>

CBH website: <https://cbhphilly.org/community-autism-peer-specialist-program/>



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