
Frequently Asked Questions about the CAPS Training Program

DO I HAVE TO LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY?

You do not have to reside in Philadelphia County to participate in the training program. While we will be placing preference on Philadelphia residents, this is not a requirement for the training program.

IF I COMPLETE THE TRAINING PROGRAM AND AM HIRED AS A CAPS, WILL I HAVE TO RESIDE IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY?

No, peer specialists do not have to reside in Philadelphia county.

WILL PEOPLE BE PAID TO ATTEND THE TRAINING?

No, funds for this training program will cover training costs, materials and sometimes lunch for participants. There will not be any stipend for attending the training. This is a scholarship opportunity for people to have the opportunity to be a part of this training program.

DOES THE CAPS PROGRAM ACCEPT HOMESCHOOLED APPLICANTS?

Yes, as long as they have a degree that meets the position requirements.

DO YOU NEED TO HAVE EXPERTISE IN LIFE DOMAINS AS A PEER SPECIALIST?

No, we do not expect applicants to have expertise in all life areas. All CAPS will have areas of strengths and areas that may be newer to them. That's where a CAPS supervisor and their peers in the training program can help navigate areas that a peer specialist is less familiar with.

IS DRIVING REQUIRED?

While driving is not required, you must be able to travel independently throughout Philadelphia. We ask if you can drive in the CAPS Training Application because you will be responsible for getting to the training and shadowing opportunities yourself. For the CAPS Peer Specialist Job, we ask if you can drive because it is helpful to know when matching you with peers. MHP also uses a car share program so this may be available to you as an option if you are interested.

HOW WILL THE MATCHING PROCESS HAPPEN? FOR EXAMPLE, WILL YOU BE PAIRING FEMALES WITH MALES? HOW WILL THESE DECISIONS BE MADE?

When people are referred to receive the peer service, they will complete an intake evaluation form. MHP reviews this form and matches the peer based on their knowledge of the peer specialists.

WILL THE JOB BE FULL TIME, PART TIME, AS NEEDED?

This past year, 3 full time staff and 2 part time staff were hired. This will vary depending on budget, number of peers that are referred to receive the service and each CAPS' capacity to take on more peers.

HOW MUCH WOULD A PEER SPECIALIST BE PAID FOR THE JOB?

The average range is \$12-\$16/hr, 32k for full time annual salary.

WHAT IF I'M NOT SURE ABOUT APPLYING FOR THE CAPS TRAINING PROGRAM?

If you're not sure, please apply anyway so that you have an opportunity to learn more about the program. Our hope is to pilot this in Philadelphia and extend it statewide. We envision additional opportunities after we're able to pilot the program.

