

3. Summary by State

This section provides information on Recovery Coach certification in 48 states and the District of Columbia. The authors were unable to locate certification entities in North and South Dakota, Puerto Rico, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. Sources in North Dakota and Puerto Rico reported that they are in the process of creating a certification program. The authors did not research whether any state law requires an individual to obtain certification to work as a Recovery Coach or similar title in that state.

The certification information, accurate as of November 2018, is summarized below and detailed by state in **Appendix A**.

- **Job Title:** The job title used by each certification entity. Twenty-three different terms are used. All states include the word “peer” or “recovery” or both in the job title. Eleven certifying entities include the term “Recovery Coach” in the job title. Twelve certifying entities use the title “Peer Recovery Specialist.”
- **IC&RC Member:** The International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes public protection by offering internationally-recognized credentials and examinations for prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals. To date, 25 certifying entities offer IC&RC’s peer recovery credential.
- **Number of States with a Private or Public Credentialing Entity:** The number of certification entities that are either private, public, or public/private. For example, Alaska relies on a private certification organization, the Alaska Commission for Behavioral Health Certification, whereas Alabama’s state Department of Mental Health certifies Recovery Coaches.
- **Minimum Education Requirement:** The minimum education requirements to apply for a certification. Certification in most states requires a high school diploma or GED.
- **Exam Required:** Whether a certification entity requires an exam to complete the process. An exam is required by 41 certification entities.
- **Lived Experience:** Whether a certification entity requires an applicant to have lived experience to apply for a certification.
- **Hours of Training:** The number of hours of training an applicant must complete and document to obtain certification. The number of hours varies by state, and some states require training on specific topic areas or to cover a set of domains.
- **Hours of Experience:** The number of hours of experience an applicant needs to complete a certification. The number of hours varies by state.
- **Hours of Supervision:** The number of supervised hours of experience an applicant needs to complete a certification. The number of hours varies by state.

TABLE 1: Summary of State Certification Requirements

Certification Elements	No. of States⁵	% of States
<i>Job Title (in order of frequency)</i>		
Peer Recovery Specialist	12	23%
Peer Specialist	6	11%
Recovery Coach	4	8%
Peer Recovery Coach	3	6%
Peer Recovery Support Specialist	3	6%
Peer Support Specialist	4	8%
Addiction Recovery Coach	1	2%
Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist	1	2%
Peer Addiction Recovery Coach	1	2%
Peer Counselor	1	2%
Peer Mentor / Peer Recovery Coach Designation	1	2%
Peer Recovery	1	2%
Peer Recovery and Support Specialist	1	2%
Peer Recovery Mentor	1	2%
Peer Recovery Supporter	1	2%
Peer Support and Wellness Specialist	1	2%
Peer Support Worker	1	2%
Reciprocal Peer Recovery	1	2%
Recovery Coach Professional	1	2%
Recovery Mentor	1	2%
Recovery Specialist	1	2%
Recovery Support Specialist	1	2%
Recovery Support Worker	1	2%
Missing/Unknown	4	8%
<i>State Offering IC&RC Peer Recovery Credential</i>		
State is an IC&RC Member and offer credential	25	47%
State is not an IC&RC Member and does not offer credential	28	53%
<i>Credentialing Entity</i>		
Private	29	55%
Public	16	30%
Public/Private	3	6%
Missing/Unknown	5	9%
<i>Minimum Education Requirement</i>		
High School Diploma/GED	33	62%

⁵ This table reflects certification requirements from certification organizations in 48 states and the District of Columbia as of November, 2018.

Certification Elements	No. of States⁵	% of States
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	20	38%
<i>Exam</i>		
Exam Required	41	77%
No Exam Required	2	4%
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	10	19%
<i>Hours of Training Required</i>		
21-40	17	32%
41-60	17	32%
61-80	3	6%
81-100	1	2%
101-120	4	8%
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	11	21%
<i>Lived Experience Requirement</i>		
Lived Experience and One Year Continuous Recovery Required	4	8%
Lived Experience and One and Half Years Continuous Recovery Required	1	2%
Lived Experience and Two Years Continuous Recovery Required	8	15%
Lived Experience Not Required	3	6%
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	37	70%
<i>Hours of Experience Required</i>		
200	1	2%
500	17	32%
1,000	1	2%
2,000	1	2%
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	33	62%
<i>Hours of Supervised Experience Required</i>		
25	15	28%
50	1	2%
75	1	2%
100	1	2%
120	1	2%
500	2	4%
No Requirement/Missing/Unknown	32	60%

B. Recovery Coach Certification Requirements by State

The credential and the requirements reported here are those available as of November 2018. Additional information about each program is Retrieved from their individual websites; this information may have been updated after that date.

<u>State</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Credentialing Entity</u>	<u>IC&RC Member</u> 17	<u>Private Public</u>	<u>HS Diploma or GED Reqd</u>	<u>Exam Reqd</u>	<u>Lived Exp Reqd</u>	<u>Years Cont Recovery Reqd</u>	<u>Training Hours Reqd</u>	<u>Experience Hours Reqd</u>	<u>Supervision Hours Reqd</u>
<i>NR/M/U = Not Required/Missing/Unknown</i>											
Alabama	Recovery Support Specialist	AL Dept of Mental Health	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	2	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Alaska	Peer Recovery Support Specialist	AK Commission for Behavioral Health Certification	N	Private	Y	Y	Y	2	48	200	NR/M/U
Arizona	Peer Recovery Specialist	AZ Board for Certification of Addiction Counselors	Y	Private	NR/M/U	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Arkansas	Peer Recovery Coach	AR Substance Abuse Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
California	Peer Recovery Specialist	CA Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals Credentialing	Y	Private	NR/M/U	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	100	500	25
Colorado	Recovery Coach Professional	CO Prevention Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	120	2000	120
Connecticut	Recovery Coach	CT Community for Addiction Recovery	Y	Private	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U

¹⁷ *IC&RC Member*: The International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) is a private, not-for-profit organization that promotes public protection by offering internationally-recognized credentials and examinations for prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals. To date, 25 certifying entities offer IC&RC's peer recovery credential.

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Delaware	Peer Recovery Specialist	DE Certification Board	Y	Private	NR/M/U	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	25	1000	NR/M/U
Florida	Peer Recovery Specialist	FL Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	Y	2	40	NR/M/U	500
Georgia	Peer Recovery Coach	Alcohol and Drug Abuse Certification Board of GA	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	100	500	50
Hawaii ¹⁸	Peer Specialist	HI Alcohol & Drug Abuse Division	Y	N/A	Y	Y	Y	1	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Idaho	Peer Recovery Coach	ID Board of Alcohol/Drug Abuse Counselor Certification	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
Illinois	Peer Recovery Specialist	IL Certification Board, Inc.	Y	Private	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	100	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Indiana	Peer Addiction Recovery Coach	IN Counselors Association of Alcohol and Drug Abuse	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	52	500	25
Iowa	Peer Recovery Specialist	IA Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	52	500	25
Kansas	Peer Specialist	KS State University	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Kentucky	Kentucky Peer Specialist	KY Dept of Behavioral Health	N	Public	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	30	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Louisiana	Peer Recovery Support Specialist	LA Substance Abuse Counselors and Trainers	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25

¹⁸ Must have a diagnosis of mental illness or COD. Diagnosis of a SUD not enough.

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Maine	Recovery Coach	University of New England - ME	N	Private	NR/M/U	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	80	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Maryland	Peer Recovery Specialist	MD Addiction and Behavioral Health Professionals Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	Y	2	46	500	25
Massachusetts	Addiction Recovery Coach	MA Board of Substance Abuse Counselor Certification	N	Public/Private	NR/M/U	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	35	NR/M/U	500
Michigan	Peer Recovery Mentor	MI Certification Board for Addiction Professionals	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
Minnesota	Peer Recovery Specialist	MN Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Mississippi	Peer Support Specialist	MS Dept of Mental Health	N	Public	NR/M/U	Y	Y	NR/M/U	34	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Missouri	Reciprocal Peer Recovery	MO Credentialing Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
Montana ¹⁹	Behavioral Health Peer Support Specialist	MT Board of Behavioral Health	N	N/A	NR/M/U	Y	Y	2	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Nebraska ²⁰	Peer Support and Wellness Specialist	NE Dept of Health and Human Services Div of Behavioral Health Office of Consumer Affairs	N	Public	NR/M/U	Y	Y	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U

¹⁹ Requirements are set forth in a 2017 bill from the Montana legislature.

²⁰ Nebraska is revising its peer support training. All data is as of 2017, it does not reflect 2018 updates.

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Nevada	Peer Recovery and Support Specialist	NV Behavioral Health Association	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
New Hampshire	Recovery Support Worker	NH Office of Professional Licensure and Certification	N	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	NR/M/U
New Jersey	Peer Recovery Specialist	Addiction Professionals Certification Board of NJ	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
New Mexico	Peer Support Worker	NM Human Services Dept, Office of Peer Recovery & Engagement Behavioral Health Services Div	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	2	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
New York	Recovery Coach	NY Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services	N	Public	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
North Carolina	Peer Support Specialist	NC Div of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services	N	Public	Y	NR/M/U	Y	1	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
North Dakota ²¹	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	N/A	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Ohio	Peer Recovery Supporter	OH Dept of Mental Health & Addiction Services	N	Public	NR/M/U	Y	Y	NR/M/U	56	NR/M/U	NR/M/U

²¹ Certification process in development.

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Oklahoma	Peer Recovery Support Specialist	OK Dept of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services	N	Public	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Oregon	Recovery Mentor	Addiction Counselor Certification Board of OR	Y	Private	NR/M/U	N	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Pennsylvania	Recovery Specialist	PA Certification Board	N	Private	Y	Y	Y	1.5	54	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Rhode Island	Peer Recovery Specialist	RI Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
South Carolina	Peer Support Specialist	SC Dept of Mental Health and SC SHARE	N	Public/Private	Y	Y	Y	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
South Dakota ²²	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Tennessee	Peer Recovery Specialist	TN Dept of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Office of Consumer Affairs and Peer Recovery Services	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	2	40	NR/M/U	75
Texas	Peer Mentor/ Peer Recovery Coach Designation	TX Cert Board of Addiction Professionals	Y	Private	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
Utah	Peer Support Specialist	Optum; UT State University; Veteran's Administration	N	Public and Private	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	40	NR/M/U	100

²² No certification process.

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Vermont	Recovery Coach	VT Recovery Network & VT Association for Mental Health & Addiction Recovery	N	Private	NR/M/U	Y	Y	1	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Virginia	Peer Recovery Specialist	VA Certification Board	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	72	500	25
Washington ²³	Peer Counselor	WA Health Care Authority	N	Public	NR/M/U	Y	Y	1	40	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
West Virginia	Peer Recovery	WV Certification Board for Addiction & Prevention Professionals	Y	Private	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	46	500	25
Wisconsin	Peer Specialist	WI Dept of Health Services	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Wyoming	Peer Specialist	WY Dept of Health Behavioral Health Division	N	Public	Y	N	Y	NR/M/U	36	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
District of Columbia	Peer Specialist	D.C. Dept of Behavioral Health	N	Public	Y	Y	Y	2	80	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
Puerto Rico ²⁴	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U
U.S. Virgin Islands ²⁵	N/A	N/A	N	N/A	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U	NR/M/U

²³ Certification appears to be focused on mental health, however, there are pathways to become a coach for SUD recovery.

²⁴ Puerto Rico currently doesn't have a centralized Recovery Coach certification organization or certification but that it is in process.

²⁵ No certification Process.