

# IC&RC Certified Peer Fact Sheet

## What is a Peer?

Peers are individuals with lived experience in recovery from substance use, mental health, or co-occurring challenges. They use their recovery experience to provide support and hope to individuals working through their own recovery.

## What is the difference between a non-certified Peer and an IC&RC Certified Peer?

While non-certified and IC&RC Certified Peers both use lived experience to guide individuals through the recovery process, only IC&RC Certified Peers are equipped with a scope of practice and peer core competencies. They are bound by ethical guidelines which protect the Peer, the individual, and the public. In addition, IC&RC Certified Peers are required to:

- Participate in peer specific training in the competency areas of:
  - Advocacy
  - Recovery and Wellness
  - Mentoring and Education
  - Ethical Responsibility
- Apply for certification through a formal application process
- Sign and adhere to a peer-specific code of ethics
- Take and pass the IC&RC Peer Recovery examination
- Pursue continuing education credits to stay current on emerging trends and best practices

## Why a Certified Peer?

Certification provides public protection and quality care. It requires a demonstration of competence and proves that the Peer is well trained, educated, and skilled in providing appropriate services. IC&RC Certified Peers are bound by a code of ethics which includes a formal sanctioning process if questions of ethics arise.

IC&RC's Certified Peers are required to pass the IC&RC Peer Recovery examination. The examination has been developed through a peer-driven process to standardize the certification process and assess the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to provide peer recovery services. It is based on a rigorous, legally defensible, psychometric job analysis and updated regularly to assure content stays current with changes in the field.

## About IC&RC

*IC&RC promotes public protection by setting standards and developing exams for credentialing prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals. Organized in 1981, it has a worldwide network of over 50,000 certified professionals.*

*For information contact IC&RC at [info@internationalcredentialing.org](mailto:info@internationalcredentialing.org) or by visiting the website at [www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org).*