



Use Your Experience to Help Others. Become a Peer Specialist.

A Peer Specialist is an individual with the lived experience of recovery who has been trained to help others by providing support as they move forward in their own wellness journey. As a person who has traveled a similar path, a Peer Specialist fosters hope for recovery and models that reality to the peers they serve.

Unique Education and Career Opportunity.

Are you a member of the Black community and interested in becoming a Peer Specialist?

Thanks to a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), DBSA is pleased to offer a paid apprenticeship to participate in the DBSA Peer Specialist Apprentices Program.

More about DBSA's Peer Specialist Apprentices Program

- Scholarship to enroll in the DBSA Peer Specialist Course
- 2-year part-time paid apprenticeship to qualify for the Illinois Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) credential

CRSS Credential Requirements

In addition to completing an approved peer specialist course, individuals wishing to take the CRSS exam must complete 2,000 supervised hours working in the areas of advocacy, professional responsibility, mentoring, and recovery support.

If you are seeking a career to use your lived experience with a mental health or substance use disorder to help others in the Black community, please send an email to training@dbsalliance.org.

Applicants must be committed to completing the 2-year apprentices program.



Depression and Bipolar
Support Alliance

Apply now by contacting:
training@dbsalliance.org

DBSA Peer Specialist Apprentice Program Serving the Black Community

- Program Start Date: July 5, 2021
- 2-year commitment
- Paid part-time supervised hours meets requirements to obtain Illinois CRSS credential

Application Deadline

- Friday, June 11, 2021

Year One Program

DBSA Peer Specialist Course

Enrolled in 76-hour course that provides skills in appropriate use of lived experience to provide hope and inspiration to another peer.

Supervised Apprentices Program

- Form and lead a peer council in the Black community to understand the peer support needs of the community.
- Form and facilitate DBSA support group meeting for the Black community.
- Mentor peers and provide one-on-one peer support.
- Provide mental health workshops in the Black community.
- Professional development.

Year Two Program

Placement at a Cook County behavioral health center provides supervised, hands-on experience.