

TURN YOUR EXPERIENCE INTO EMPOWERMENT! BECOME A PEER SUPPORT SPECIALIST!

The Johnston County Public Health Department and the Opioid Task Force are pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) training. Thanks to approval from the Johnston County Commissioners, funding from the Opioid Settlement Funds (Strategy III) will support up to four qualified applicants.

This initiative aims to support individuals with lived experience related to substance or opioid use, recognizing the unique value they bring to supporting others in recovery. Preferences will be given to applicants who are recommended by a Johnston County agency or community-based organization.

COST & REIMBURSEMENT

Scholarship recipients will pay 50% of the training costs, upfront \$250.00. This amount will be fully reimbursed upon completion of the certification process. *Commitment sheet to be signed.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be at least 18 years old
- Be in recovery from a substance use or opioid disorder for at least one year
- Have lived experience with, and in recovery from, a substance use disorder and/or serious mental illness
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Participate in an in-person interview

Training Dates & Locations

June 23 - 27, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Johnston County Behavioral Health
521 North Brightleaf Blvd, Smithfield, NC

June 28 - 29, 2025

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Johnston County Public Health Dept.
517 North Brightleaf Blvd, Smithfield, NC

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Complete 50 hours of CPSS training (includes a minimum of 40 hours of in-person and 10 hours of pre-work or homework)
- ✓ Complete 20 hours of WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) training
- ✓ Complete 2 hours of continuing education training, *on-line*
- ✓ Submit all required documents to <https://pss.unc.edu/certification> for certification
- ✓ Attend Johnston County Opioid Task Force quarterly meetings
- ✓ After certification, provide peer support to a minimum of 30 individuals annually through health fairs and other events coordinated by Johnston County Health Department
- ✓ Attend bi-monthly check-ins with the Opioid Grant Coordinator for 12 months post-certification

SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO:

LaNarda Williamson - Opioid Grant Coordinator
Johnston County Behavioral Health - 521 North Brightleaf Blvd, Smithfield NC 27577
919-209-5864 - LaNarda.Williamson@johnstonnc.gov

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Referring Agency: _____

Representative Name: _____

Email: _____ **Phone:** _____

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. In what capacity do you currently serve Johnston County?

2. How would the training benefit you in your current or future role?

3. How do you plan to use your certification to benefit Johnston County residents as a Peer Support Specialist?

4. Do you have professional or academic experience in a related field? If yes, please explain.

PERSONAL NARRATIVE

Submit a minimum 500-word narrative explaining why you want to become a Certified Peer Support Specialist and share your relevant lived experience

OTHER PREREQUISITES

- ✓ **Letters of Recommendation**
Submit three letters of recommendation from employers, volunteer organizations and or mentors. (Letters on official letterhead are preferred.)
- ✓ **Education Requirements**
High school diploma or equivalent. Additional degrees or certifications are a plus.

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DEADLINE

All completed application packets must be received by 5:00 pm on June 6, 2025.