

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES

General information (MHA)

Duties

The mission of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) is to provide statewide leadership of a high-quality mental health and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery system that is effective and valued by all Ohioans. OhioMHAS is a cabinet-level state agency that facilitates planning, establishes policy, distributes funding, delivers services, and regulates providers. We operate six regional psychiatric hospitals with over 1,000 beds serving over 6,000 people each year. We also provide recovery services to over 17,000 men and women incarcerated with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction each year, and we operate Ohio Pharmacy Services, which provides a diverse array of goods and services to state institutions and eligible community partners. We regulate over 2,000 mental health and addiction services providers statewide and protect the rights of those served by these organizations. We provide leadership to the behavioral health system of 50 Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health (ADAMH) boards and local prevention, treatment, and recovery support providers meeting the needs of Ohioans across the lifespan in local communities.

Membership *(Current members, chairperson and other officers, and selection process.)*

OhioMHAS is an administrative department created by Section 121.02 of the Ohio Revised Code. The Director is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Ohio Senate. It does not have a membership.

Budget *(Current budget, description of budgeting process, sources of funding, and expected increases or decreases in budget or funding in future years.)*

OhioMHAS's FY 22 – FY 23 budget included an all funds total of \$1,060,711,574 in FY 22 and \$986,153,118 in FY 23 all funds. Sources of funding included GRF (49.1%), federal (31.8%), and state non-GRF (19.2%).

Budget recommendations for FY 24 – FY 25 will be included in Governor DeWine's budget proposal.

Workload *(Assess current, past, and anticipated workload. Has the workload increased or decreased significantly in the preceding six years?)*

OhioMHAS's workload has increased in recent years. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated already rising rates of mental health concerns and illness, as well as substance use disorders among Ohioans, and Ohio is seeing of the growth of depression, anxiety, increased overdose rates, and suicidality.

Staffing *(How many staff are currently employed by the Department? What are their roles? Are staffing levels proportionate to the Department's current and anticipated workload?)*

OhioMHAS has 2,631 employees. 2,412 are FT permanent. A list of the offices, bureaus, and divisions that make up the department can be found here: <https://mha.ohio.gov/about-us/offices-bureaus>.

Administrative hearings and public complaints *(Describe the Department’s processes for administering discipline and addressing complaints. Assess the efficiency of the processes.)*

The Department utilizes R.C. 119 to conduct administrative hearings and complaints.

Certified peer youth supporter

Survey responses (MHA)

Description

A Certified Youth Peer Supporter (CYPS) is someone who has direct lived experience with behavioral health challenges (mental health and/or substance use disorder), is between the ages of 18-30, and has been certified pursuant to OAC 5122-29-15.1. CYPS are unique in that they may have been impacted by behavioral health challenges while they were part of the child-serving system. A CYPS is trained to use their lived experience to help youth/young adults advocate for services and systems supports. A CYPS also works with youth/young adults to create and maintain positive peer interactions that promote wellness, resiliency, and recovery. They promote youth-guided practices that focus on strengths as part of the solution and ensure that youth/young adults participate in all aspects of care.

Type *(License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)*

Certification

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Number issued annually	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. We have no annual data at this time.
Number renewed annually	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. We have no annual data at this time.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. Although we have no annual data at this time, a total of nine have been certified as Youth Peer Supporters since 4/7/2022.
Education or training requirements	<p>A certified youth peer supporter (CYPS) must hold a high school diploma, a general educational development certification, or similar secondary education from outside of the United States.</p> <p>Proof of minimum of forty hours of department approved competency-based peer services training or three equivalent years formal, verifiable experience providing behavioral health peer services pursuant to the rule 5122-29-15 of the Administrative Code.</p> <p>Completion of sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department.</p>
Experience requirements	<p>CYPS have direct lived experience and have been impacted by behavioral health challenges while they were a part of the child-serving system. A CYPS is trained to use their lived experience to help youth/young adults advocate for services and systems supports. A CYPS also work with youth/young adults to create and maintain positive peer interactions that promote wellness, resiliency, and recovery. They promote youth-guided practices that focus on strengths as part of the solution and ensure that youth/young adults participate in all aspects of their care.</p> <p>Individuals must be at least eighteen years of age, but no older than thirty years of age at the time of certification.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

<p>Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Department receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)</p>	<p>The exam is administered online through Exam Professor. There are no fees for peers to take the exam.</p>
<p>Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)</p>	<p>Renewal of certification requirements as specified in OAC 5122-29-15.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Documentation of thirty hours of continuing education credits, including the following competencies and minimum hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ethics (may include HIPAA, confidentiality) - 3 hours (ii) Boundaries - 3 hours (iii) Diversity and inclusion/cultural sensitivity - 2 hours (iv) System navigation and care coordination - 1 hour (v) Trauma informed care - 2 hours (vi) Human trafficking - 1 hour (vii) Behavioral health knowledge (may include recovery and resiliency) - 1 hour (viii) Basic principles related to health and wellness - 1 hour (ix) Principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services - 2 hours <p>Continuing education credits are accepted from a continuing education program that meets the professional needs of the intended clientele, which includes certified peer recovery supporters, certified family peer supporters, certified youth peer supporters, counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, nurses, chemical dependency counselors, or other human service professionals.</p> <p>The program must have a minimum duration of one hour and written goals and objectives that are responsive to the needs of prospective attendees.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Initial fee	\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure. All individuals must apply for certification through eLicense Ohio application portal.
Duration	Two years
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure
Does the Department recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	OhioMHAS currently accepts two pathways to certification: through work experience or by completing eligible training. Individuals may apply for certification if they have three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. The experience is required to be verified through documentation.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	Yes, there are similar national registrations, certifications, and licenses. No, they cannot be used as a substitute for the state regulation.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Department?	No
Is the Department permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	Yes Denial of initial or renewal certification process specified in OAC 5122-29-15.1: (1) An application for initial or renewal certification may be denied, and a certification may be revoked for the following: (a) Failure to provide peer supporter services in accordance with the standards set forth in this rule.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

(b) Failure to submit a complete certification or renewal application.

(c) Failure to complete any of the standards for certification or renewal.

(d) The department determines that the certified peer supporter code of ethics has been violated.

(e) The individual is included in one of the following databases:

(i) The sex offender and child-victim offender database established pursuant to division (A)(11) of section 2950.13 of the Revised Code (available at <http://www.icrimewatch.net/index.php?AgencyID=55149&disc=>)

(ii) The database of incarcerated and supervised offenders established pursuant to section 5120.66 of the Revised Code (available at <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/OffenderSearch/Search.aspx>).

(f) A background check that has any of the permanently disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule.

(g) A background check that has any of the five year disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule, when five years have not elapsed between the release of all sanctions for the offense, and the submission of the certification application.

(2) The denial of an application for certification or renewal, or the revocation of certification is subject to appeal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(3) Upon receipt of an application, the department will review the materials to determine if they are complete. If an application is incomplete, the department will notify the applicant of corrections or additions needed. Incomplete materials will not be considered an application for certification, and will not constitute a denial of an application for certification.

(4) Any individual who has had their certification revoked or an application denied pursuant to this rule will not be eligible to apply to the department for certification for at least three years from the date of revocation.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Other information (*Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.*)

Must have documentation of passing the department peer supporter exam, or an exam administered or designated by the department.

Certified peer supporters will attest to having read and understood the code of ethics at initial certification and every certification renewal thereafter.

Certification is dependent on all materials being accurate, completed, submitted, and approved by the department through the eLicense portal.

The department must have directly received, reviewed and approved the results of a bureau of criminal investigation and federal bureau of investigation criminal check within one year of submission (for initial certification only, at renewal either an attestation that the applicant has not been convicted of any new felony offenses or a new background check is completed).

Certified peer supporters will be supervised by an individual who either:

(1) Has experience delivering peer services in behavioral health over a cumulative period of two years, has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department, and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department; or,

(2) Is a clinician with one of the following licenses, and has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department: (a) Licensed social worker; (b) Licensed independent social worker; (c) Licensed professional counselor; (d) Licensed chemical dependency counselor II; (e) Licensed chemical dependency counselor III; (f) Licensed professional clinical counselor; (g) Licensed independent chemical dependency counselor; (h) Licensed marriage and family therapist; (i) Licensed independent marriage and family therapist (j) Psychologist; or, (k) Psychiatrist.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Department respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

ORC 5119.36 authorizes OhioMHAS to certify mental health and addiction services which specifies that proceedings initiated to deny applications to certify certifiable services and supports, to refuse to renew certification, or to revoke certification are governed by Chapter 119 of the Revised Code.

There is also an attestation during the application process in eLicense that all applicants for certification are required to sign.

The language for this attestation is below:

I hereby affirm that all information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that falsification of any portion of this application may result in my being denied certification/licensure or in revocation of the same. I hereby affirm that I have read the Code of Ethics for this credential type and I agree to abide by this code. (Codes of Ethics for all credential types may be accessed at www.mha.ohio.gov)

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Department to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services does not receive any revenue from the certification of youth peer supporters. Additionally, the Department does not impose a fee for the youth to become certified peer supporters. The e-License system does impose a \$3.50 fee, however.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

N/A

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

Certified Youth Peer Supporters seek to prevent harm to a vulnerable population of children, youth, and young adults with behavioral health conditions. Peer recovery services are community-based services for people with mental illness or substance use disorder. Services include activities that promote recovery, self-determination, self-advocacy, well-being, and independence. Peer recovery supports become certified by taking in-person training, or by having three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. Regardless of the pathway to certification, individuals must also have completed 16 hours of online E-Based Academy courses, which include topics such as ethics, human trafficking, and trauma-informed care. They are also required to pass the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services exam, sign and agree to the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services Code of Ethics, and pass a Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) background check.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes. No less restrictive options.

Are there any changes the Department would like to see implemented?

No

Surrounding state comparison (LSC)

As reflected in the table below, most of the surrounding states do not formally regulate peer recovery supporters by statute or rule and therefore are not included; however, in several of those states, third-party organizations certify peer recovery supporters. The following resources offer – on a state-by-state basis – additional information about these practitioners, including by addressing such topics as Medicaid reimbursement and whether certification is performed by a state or private entity: [Peer Support Specialist Certification or Credentialing Authority](#), [Peer Support Specialists: Connections to Mental Health Care](#), [State-by-State Directory of Peer Recovery Coaching Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#), and [State-by-State Directory of Parent Peer Support Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#).

Certified Youth Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation	Certification.	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent. ¹⁰	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.
Education or training	High school diploma or equivalent plus both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A minimum of 40 hours of 	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹⁰ Rules adopted by the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) recognize the following additional practitioners: adult peer support specialists, family peer support specialists, and youth peer support specialists. See 908 Ky. Admin. Regs. 2:220, 2:230, and 2:240. Though it does not appear from Kentucky statutes or rules that these practitioners must hold licenses, certificates, or registrations issued by the state of Kentucky, or even that the state is expressly authorized to issue them, it appears that DBHDID does certify these individuals. The rules require them to meet certain education, experience, and training requirements, pass an examination, and complete continuing education credits. The practitioners also must establish through DBHDID an online account to record continuing education credits. A peer support specialist must maintain those credits for reimbursement under the state’s Medicaid program. See [Peer Support Specialist FAQs \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the DBHDID’s website: dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh.

Certified Youth Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	<p>MHAS-approved competency-based peer services training; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 hours of online learning administered or designated by MHAS. <p>(O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1).</p>					
Experience	At least 18 years of age but no more than 30 years of age. In lieu of the 40 hours of training described above, may complete three equivalent years of formal, verifiable experience providing behavioral health	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Youth Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	peer services. (O.A.C. 5122-29-15 and 5122-29-15.1.)					
Exam	Documentation of passing the MHAS peer supporter exam or an exam administered or designated by MHAS (O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Continuing education	30 hours every two years, including three hours in ethics; three hours in boundaries; two hours in diversity, inclusion, and cultural sensitivity; one hour in system navigation and care coordination; two hours in trauma informed care; one hour in human trafficking;	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Youth Peer Supporter

	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	one hour in behavioral health knowledge; one hour in basic principles related to health and wellness; and two hours in principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).					
Initial licensure fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	Two years (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Renewal fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified peer recovery supporter

Survey responses (MHA)

Description
A “Certified Peer Recovery Supporter” (CRPS) is an individual who has a direct lived experience with mental health and/or substance use issues and has been certified pursuant to rule 5122-29-15.1. “Direct lived experience” means that you are personally in recovery from a mental health and/or substance use issue (having a friend or family member in recovery does not qualify you for this certification).

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)
Certification

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Number issued annually	2016: 111 2017: 433 2018: 458 2019: 578 2020: 616 2021: 783

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	To date 2022: 583
Number renewed annually	FY 20: 349 FY 21: 255 To date FY 22: 322
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	There has been an increase of certificates in the last several years. Tracking until April 7, 2022 was done manually using an excel spreadsheet. Tracking is now automatic through the eLicense portal.
Education or training requirements	A certified peer recovery supporter (CPRS) must hold a high school diploma, a general educational development certification, or similar secondary education from outside of the United States. Proof of minimum of forty hours of department approved competency-based peer services training or three equivalent years formal, verifiable experience providing behavioral health peer services pursuant to the rule 5122-29-15 of the Administrative Code. Completion of sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department.
Experience requirements	A certified peer recovery supporter (CPRS) is an individual who has direct lived experienced with mental health and/or substance use issues and has been certified pursuant to rule 5122-29-15.1. Individual must be at least eighteen years of age at the time of certification.
Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Department receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)	The exam is administered online through Exam Professor. There are no fees for peers to take the exam.

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

<p>Continuing education requirements <i>(Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.)</i></p>	<p>Renewal of certification requirements as specified in OAC 5122-29-15.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Documentation of thirty hours of continuing education credits, which will include the following competencies and minimum hours: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ethics (may include HIPAA, confidentiality) - 3 hours (ii) Boundaries - 3 hours (iii) Diversity and inclusion/cultural sensitivity - 2 hours (iv) System navigation and care coordination - 1 hour (v) Trauma informed care - 2 hours (vi) Human trafficking - 1 hour (vii) Behavioral health knowledge (may include recovery and resiliency) - 1 hour (viii) Basic principles related to health and wellness - 1 hour (ix) Principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services - 2 hours. <p>Continuing education credits are accepted from a continuing education program that meets the professional needs of the intended clientele, which will include certified peer recovery supporters, certified family peer supporters, certified youth peer supporters, counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, nurses, chemical dependency counselors, or other human service professionals.</p> <p>The program will have a minimum duration of clock hour and written goals and objectives that are responsive to the needs of prospective attendees.</p>
<p>Initial fee</p>	<p>\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure. All individuals must apply for certification through eLicense Ohio application portal.</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>Two years</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure
Does the Department recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	OhioMHAS currently accepts two pathways to certification: through work experience or by completing eligible training. Individuals may apply for certification if they have three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. The experience is required to be verified through documentation.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	Yes, there are similar national registrations, certifications, and licenses. No, they cannot be used as a substitute for the state regulation.
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Department?	No
Is the Department permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?	Yes Denial of initial or renewal certification process specified in OAC 5122-29-15.1: (1) An application for initial or renewal certification may be denied, and a certification may be revoked for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Failure to provide peer supporter services in accordance with the standards set forth in this rule. (b) Failure to submit a complete certification or renewal application. (c) Failure to complete any of the standards for certification or renewal. (d) The department determines that the certified peer supporter code of ethics has been violated. (e) The individual is included in one of the following databases:

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

	<p>(i) The sex offender and child-victim offender database established pursuant to division (A)(11) of section 2950.13 of the Revised Code (available at http://www.icrimewatch.net/index.php?AgencyID=55149&disc=)</p> <p>(ii) The database of incarcerated and supervised offenders established pursuant to section 5120.66 of the Revised Code (available at http://www.drc.ohio.gov/OffenderSearch/Search.aspx).</p> <p>(f) A background check that has any of the permanently disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule.</p> <p>(g) A background check that has any of the five year disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule, when five years have not elapsed between the release of all sanctions for the offense, and the submission of the certification application.</p> <p>(2) The denial of an application for certification or renewal, or the revocation of certification is subject to appeal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.</p> <p>(3) Upon receipt of an application, the department will review the materials to determine if they are complete. If an application is incomplete, the department will notify the applicant of corrections or additions needed. Incomplete materials will not be considered an application for certification, and will not constitute a denial of an application for certification.</p> <p>(4) Any individual who has had their certification revoked or an application denied pursuant to this rule will not be eligible to apply to the department for certification for at least three years from the date of revocation.</p>
<p>Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)</p>	<p>Must have documentation of passing the department peer supporter exam, or an exam administered or designated by the department.</p> <p>Certified peer supporters will attest to having read and understood the code of ethics at initial certification and every certification renewal thereafter.</p> <p>Certification is dependent on all materials being accurate, completed, submitted, and approved by the department through the eLicense portal.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

The department must have directly received, reviewed, and approved the results of a bureau of criminal investigation and federal bureau of investigation criminal check within one year of submission (for initial certification only, at renewal either an attestation that the applicant has not been convicted of any new felony offenses or a new background check is completed).

Certified peer supporters will be supervised by an individual who either:

(1) Has experience delivering peer services in behavioral health over a cumulative period of two years, has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department, and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department; or,

(2) Is a clinician with one of the following licenses, and has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department: (a) Licensed social worker; (b) Licensed independent social worker; (c) Licensed professional counselor; (d) Licensed chemical dependency counselor II; (e) Licensed chemical dependency counselor III; (f) Licensed professional clinical counselor; (g) Licensed independent chemical dependency counselor; (h) Licensed marriage and family therapist; (i) Licensed independent marriage and family therapist (j) Psychologist; or, (k) Psychiatrist.

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Department respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

ORC 5119.36 authorizes OhioMHAS to certify mental health and addiction services which specifies that proceedings initiated to deny applications to certify certifiable services and supports, to refuse to renew certification, or to revoke certification are governed by Chapter 119 of the Revised Code.

There is also an attestation during the application process in eLicense that all applicants for certification are required to sign.

The language for this attestation is below:

I hereby affirm that all information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that falsification of any portion of this application may result in my being denied certification/licensure or in revocation of the same. I hereby affirm that I have read the Code of Ethics for this credential type and I agree to abide by this code. (Codes of Ethics for all credential types may be accessed at www.mha.ohio.gov)

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Department to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services does not receive any revenue from the certification of peer recovery supporters. Additionally, the Department does not impose a fee for the individuals to become certified peer recovery supporters. The e-License system does impose a \$3.50 fee, however.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

N/A

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

Certified Peer Recovery Supporters seek to prevent harm to a vulnerable population of adults with behavioral health conditions. Peer recovery services are community-based services for people with mental illness or substance use disorder. Services include activities that promote recovery, self-determination, self-advocacy, well-being, and independence. Peer recovery supporters become certified by taking in-person training, or by having three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. Regardless of the pathway to certification, individuals must also have completed 16 hours of online E-Based Academy courses, which include topics such as ethics, human trafficking, and trauma-informed care. They are also required to pass the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services exam, sign and agree to the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services Code of Ethics, and pass a Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) background check.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes. No less restrictive options.

Are there any changes the Department would like to see implemented?

No

Surrounding state comparison (LSC)

As reflected in the table below, most of the surrounding states do not formally regulate peer recovery supporters by statute or rule and therefore are not included; however, in several of those states, third-party organizations certify peer recovery supporters. The following resources offer – on a state-by-state basis – additional information about these practitioners, including by addressing such topics as Medicaid reimbursement and whether certification is performed by a state or private entity: [Peer Support Specialist Certification or Credentialing Authority](#), [Peer Support Specialists: Connections to Mental Health Care](#), [State-by-State Directory of Peer Recovery Coaching Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#), and [State-by-State Directory of Parent Peer Support Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#).

Certified Peer Recovery Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation	Certification.	No clear equivalent.	Registration. (Practitioner’s formal title under Kentucky law is a registered alcohol and drug peer support specialist.) ¹¹	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.
Education or training	High school diploma or equivalent and both of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40 hours of MHAS-approved competency-based peer 	N/A	High school diploma or equivalent and 40 classroom hours of Board of Alcohol and Drug Counselors (ADC)-approved curriculum that includes 16 hours of interactive training in ethics	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹¹ Rules adopted by the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) recognize the following additional practitioners: adult peer support specialists, family peer support specialists, and youth peer support specialists. See 908 Ky. Admin. Regs. 2:220, 2:230, and 2:240. Though it does not appear from Kentucky statutes or rules that these practitioners must hold licenses, certificates, or registrations issued by the state of Kentucky, or even that the state is expressly authorized to issue them, it appears that DBHDID does certify these individuals. The rules require them to meet certain education, experience, and training requirements, pass an examination, and complete continuing education credits. The practitioners also must establish through DBHDID an online account to record continuing education credits. A peer support specialist must maintain those credits for reimbursement under the state’s Medicaid program. See [Peer Support Specialist FAQs \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the DBHDID’s website: dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh.

Certified Peer Recovery Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	services training; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 hours of online learning administered or designated by MHAS. <i>(O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1.)</i>		(eight of which must be face-to-face), three hours of domestic violence training, two hours of HIV training, ten hours of advocacy training, ten hours of training in mentoring and education, and ten hours of training in recovery support <i>(Ky. Rev. Stat. 309.0831; 201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:050).</i>			
Experience	At least 18 years of age. In lieu of the 40 hours of training described above, may complete three equivalent years of formal, verifiable experience	N/A	At least 18 years of age and 500 hours of ADC-approved experience working with persons having substance use disorders, with 25 of those hours	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Peer Recovery Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	providing behavioral health peers services. (O.A.C. 5122-29-15 and 5122-29-15.1.)		under the supervision of an alcohol and drug counselor (Ky. Rev. Stat. 309.0831).			
Exam	Documentation of passing the MHAS peer supporter exam or an exam administered or designated by MHAS (O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1).	N/A	Comprehensive examination offered by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:025).	N/A	N/A	N/A
Continuing education	30 hours every two years, including three hours in ethics; three hours in boundaries; two hours in diversity, inclusion, and cultural sensitivity; one hour in system navigation and care coordination; two hours in	N/A	Ten hours each year (201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:040).	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Peer Recovery Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	trauma informed care; one hour in human trafficking; one hour in behavioral health knowledge; one hour in basic principles related to health and wellness; and two hours in principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).					
Initial licensure fee	N/A	N/A	\$50 (<i>201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:020</i>).	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	Two years (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).	N/A	Two years for a temporary registration and three years for a registration (<i>201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:020</i>).	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Peer Recovery Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Renewal fee	N/A	N/A	\$100 (201 Ky. Admin. Regs. 35:020).	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified family peer supporter Survey responses (MHA)

Description
<p>A certified family peer supporter (CFPS) is an individual who is the caregiver of a person with behavioral health challenges (mental health and/or substance use disorder) who has successfully navigated service systems for at least one year on behalf of the individual and has been certified pursuant to OAC 5122-29-15.1.</p> <p>A caregiver may include a birth parent, adoptive parent, foster parent, legal guardian/custodian, or a person chosen by the family or youth to have the role of primary caregiver. A CFPS supports an individual’s or family’s ability to address needs, navigate systems and promote recovery, resiliency, and wellness. They promote services that are family driven, youth guided, trauma-informed, and culturally competent. A CFPS can provide both basic and intensive family support services and participate as an active member of treatment teams in a variety of settings.</p>

Type (License, specialty license for medical reimbursement, government certification, registration, bonding or insurance, inspection, or process regulation. See R.C. 4798.01 for relevant definitions.)

Certification

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Number issued annually	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. We have no annual data at this time.
Number renewed annually	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. We have no annual data at this time.
Have there been significant increases or decreases in active registrations, certifications or licenses in the preceding six years?	Rule 5122-29-15.1 Adult, Family, and Youth Certified Peer Supporter became effective 4/7/2022. We have no annual data at this time.
Education or training requirements	<p>A certified family peer supporter (CFPS) must hold a high school diploma, a general educational development certification, or similar secondary education from outside of the United States.</p> <p>Proof of minimum of forty hours of department approved competency-based peer services training or three equivalent years formal, verifiable experience providing behavioral health peer services pursuant to the rule 5122-29-15 of the Administrative Code.</p> <p>Completion of sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department.</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

<p>Experience requirements</p>	<p>OhioMHAS currently allows individuals to apply for certification if they have three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. This experience will need to be verified through documentation.</p> <p>Individual must be at least twenty one years of age at the time of certification.</p>
<p>Examination requirements (<i>Who administers the exam? How is the exam and administrator selected? What fees are charged? Does the Department receive any proceeds of those fees? If so, how are the proceeds used?</i>)</p>	<p>The exam is administered online through Exam Professor. There are no fees for peers to take the exam.</p>
<p>Continuing education requirements (<i>Including a description of the curriculum and the process of setting it.</i>)</p>	<p>Renewal of certification requirements as specified in OAC 5122-29-15.1:</p> <p>(a) Documentation of thirty hours of continuing education credits, which will include the following competencies and minimum hours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Ethics (may include HIPAA, confidentiality) - 3 hours (ii) Boundaries - 3 hours (iii) Diversity and inclusion/cultural sensitivity - 2 hours (iv) System navigation and care coordination - 1 hours (v) Trauma informed care - 2 hours (vi) Human trafficking - 1 hour (vii) Behavioral health knowledge (may include recovery and resiliency) - 1 hour (viii) Basic principles related to health and wellness - 1 hour (ix) Principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services - 2 hours <p>Continuing education credits will be accepted from a continuing education program that meets the professional needs of the intended clientele, which will include certified peer recovery</p>

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:	
	<p>supporters, certified family peer supporters, certified youth peer supporters, counselors, social workers, marriage and family therapists, psychologists, nurses, chemical dependency counselors, or other human service professionals.</p> <p>The program will have a minimum duration of one hour and written goals and objectives which are responsive to the needs of prospective attendees.</p>
Initial fee	\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure. All individuals must apply for certification through eLicense Ohio application portal.
Duration	Two years
Renewal fee <i>(If different from initial fee, please explain why.)</i>	\$3.50 fee for eLicense Ohio Professional Licensure
Does the Department recognize uniform licensure requirements or allow for reciprocity?	OhioMHAS currently accepts two pathways to certification: through work experience or by completing eligible training. Individuals may apply for certification if they have three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. The experience is required to be verified through documentation.
Are there any similar national registrations, certifications, or licenses? Could they be used as a substitute for the state regulation?	<p>Yes, there are similar national registrations, certifications and licenses.</p> <p>No, they cannot be used as a substitute for the state regulation.</p>
Are there any circumstances in which an individual may practice elements of the occupation without being regulated by the Department?	Yes

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

Is the Department permitted to exercise discretion in determining whether to register, certify, or license an individual?

Yes

Denial of initial or renewal certification:

(1) An application for initial or renewal certification may be denied, and a certification may be revoked for the following:

(a) Failure to provide peer supporter services in accordance with the standards set forth in this rule.

(b) Failure to submit a complete certification or renewal application.

(c) Failure to complete any of the standards for certification or renewal.

(d) The department determines that the certified peer supporter code of ethics has been violated.

(e) The individual is included in one of the following databases:

(i) The sex offender and child-victim offender database established pursuant to division (A)(11) of section 2950.13 of the Revised Code (available at <http://www.icrimewatch.net/index.php?AgencyID=55149&disc=>)

(ii) The database of incarcerated and supervised offenders established pursuant to section 5120.66 of the Revised Code (available at <http://www.drc.ohio.gov/OffenderSearch/Search.aspx>).

(f) A background check that has any of the permanently disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule.

(g) A background check that has any of the five year disqualifying offenses listed in paragraph (O) of this rule, when five years have not elapsed between the release of all sanctions for the offense, and the submission of the certification application.

(2) The denial of an application for certification or renewal, or the revocation of certification is subject to appeal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(3) Upon receipt of an application, the department will review the materials to determine if they are complete. If an application is incomplete, the department will notify the applicant of

If the regulation is a registration, certification, or license requirement, please complete the following:

	<p>corrections or additions needed. Incomplete materials will not be considered an application for certification, and will not constitute a denial of an application for certification.</p> <p>(4) Any individual who has had their certification revoked or an application denied pursuant to this rule will not be eligible to apply to the department for certification for at least three years from the date of revocation.</p>
<p>Other information (<i>Significant attributes or prerequisites to licensure not addressed in this chart.</i>)</p>	<p>Must have documentation of passing the department peer supporter exam, or an exam administered or designated by the department.</p> <p>Certified peer supporters will attest to having read and understood the code of ethics at initial certification and every certification renewal thereafter.</p> <p>Certification is dependent on all materials being accurate, completed, submitted, and approved by the department through the eLicense portal.</p> <p>The department must have directly received, reviewed and approved the results of a bureau of criminal investigation and federal bureau of investigation criminal check within one year of submission (for initial certification only, at renewal either an attestation that the applicant has not been convicted of any new felony offenses or a new background check is completed).</p> <p>Certified peer supporters will be supervised by an individual who either:</p> <p>(1) Has experience delivering peer services in behavioral health over a cumulative period of two years, has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department, and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department; or,</p> <p>(2) Is a clinician with one of the following licenses, and has completed the sixteen hours of online learning administered or designated by the department and has completed the four-hour supervising peers training administered or designated by the department: (a) Licensed social worker; (b) Licensed independent social worker; (c) Licensed professional counselor; (d) Licensed chemical dependency counselor II; (e) Licensed chemical dependency counselor III; (f) Licensed professional clinical counselor; (g) Licensed independent chemical dependency counselor; (h) Licensed marriage and family therapist; (i) Licensed independent marriage and family therapist (j) Psychologist; or, (k) Psychiatrist.</p>

Oversight and disciplinary authority of the Department respecting individuals engaged in the occupation.

ORC 5119.36 authorizes OhioMHAS to certify mental health and addiction services which specifies that proceedings initiated to deny applications to certify certifiable services and supports, to refuse to renew certification, or to revoke certification are governed by Chapter 119 of the Revised Code.

There is also an attestation during the application process in eLicense that all applicants for certification are required to sign.

The language for this attestation is below:

I hereby affirm that all information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that falsification of any portion of this application may result in my being denied certification/licensure or in revocation of the same. I hereby affirm that I have read the Code of Ethics for this credential type and I agree to abide by this code. (Codes of Ethics for all credential types may be accessed at www.mha.ohio.gov)

How much revenue is derived from fees charged by the Department to individuals engaged in the occupation (such as license and renewal fees)? How is that revenue used?

The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services does not receive any revenue from the certification of youth peer supporters. Additionally, the Department does not impose a fee for the youth to become certified peer supporters. The e-License system does impose a \$3.50 fee, however.

Describe any federal regulations that apply to the occupation. Does federal law require the state to regulate the occupation?

N/A

What is the harm that the regulation seeks to prevent? (See, R.C. 4798.02(B).)

Certified Family Peer Supporters work with families/caregivers to reduce isolation, improve relationships with professionals and improve outcomes for their families. Peer recovery services are community-based services for people with mental illness or substance use disorder. Services include activities that promote recovery, self-determination, self-advocacy, well-being, and independence. Peer recovery supports become certified by taking in-person training, or by having three years of work or volunteer experience as a peer navigator, peer specialist, peer supporter, or peer recovery coach. Regardless of the pathway to certification, individuals must also have completed 16 hours of online E-Based Academy courses, which include topics such as ethics, human trafficking, and trauma-informed care. They are also required to pass the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services exam, sign and agree to the OhioMHAS Peer Recovery Services Code of Ethics, and pass a Bureau of Criminal Investigations (BCI) background check.

Is the regulation effective at preventing the harm described above? Are there other, less restrictive ways to prevent the harm?

Yes. No less restrictive options.

Are there any changes the Department would like to see implemented?

No

Surrounding state comparison (LSC)

As reflected in the table below, most of the surrounding states do not formally regulate peer recovery supporters by statute or rule and therefore are not included; however, in several of those states, third-party organizations certify peer recovery supporters. The following resources offer – on a state-by-state basis – additional information about these practitioners, including by addressing such topics as Medicaid reimbursement and whether certification is performed by a state or private entity: [Peer Support Specialist Certification or Credentialing Authority](#), [Peer Support Specialists: Connections to Mental Health Care](#), [State-by-State Directory of Peer Recovery Coaching Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#), and [State-by-State Directory of Parent Peer Support Training and Certification Programs \(PDF\)](#).

Certified Family Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Type of regulation	Certification.	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent. ¹²	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.	No clear equivalent.
Education or training	High school diploma or equivalent and 40 hours of MHAS-approved competency-based peer	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

¹² Rules adopted by the Kentucky Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) recognize the following additional practitioners: adult peer support specialists, family peer support specialists, and youth peer support specialists. See 908 Ky. Admin. Regs. 2:220, 2:230, and 2:240. Though it does not appear from Kentucky statutes or rules that these practitioners must hold licenses, certificates, or registrations issued by the state of Kentucky, or even that the state is expressly authorized to issue them, it appears that DBHDID does certify these individuals. The rules require them to meet certain education, experience, and training requirements, pass an examination, and complete continuing education credits. The practitioners also must establish through DBHDID an online account to record continuing education credits. A peer support specialist must maintain those credits for reimbursement under the state’s Medicaid program. See [Peer Support Specialist FAQs \(PDF\)](#), which is available on the DBHDID’s website: dbhdid.ky.gov/dbh.

Certified Family Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
	services training (O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1).					
Experience	21 years of age. In lieu of the 40 hours of training described above, may complete three equivalent years of formal, verifiable experience providing behavioral health peer services (O.A.C. 5122-29-15 and 5122-29-15.1).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Exam	Documentation of passing the MHAS peer supporter exam or an exam administered or designated by MHAS (O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Family Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Continuing education	30 hours every two years, including three hours in ethics; three hours in boundaries; two hours in diversity, inclusion, and cultural sensitivity; one hour in system navigation and care coordination; two hours in trauma informed care; one hour in human trafficking; one hour in behavioral health knowledge; one hour in basic principles related to health and wellness; and two hours in principles of coaching as applied to the delivery of peer services (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Certified Family Peer Supporter						
	Ohio	Indiana	Kentucky	Michigan	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Initial licensure fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
License duration	Two years (<i>O.A.C. 5122-29-15.1</i>).	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Renewal fee	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A