



# NATIONALLY ACCREDITED PEER WELLNESS SPECIALIST VIRTUAL TRAINING

## WHAT IS A PEER WELLNESS SPECIALIST?

The role of the Peer Wellness Specialist (PWS) is to provide peer support, encouragement, and assistance to address physical and mental health needs. In order to do that, it is important that the PWS has a working knowledge of the various health care and wellness resources in their community and how to access these services and resources.

## WHAT IS REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE?

This training is composed of mandatory **80-hours of virtual classroom instruction** and some out-of-class assignments.

**Video and audio capabilities are required**, in addition to a stable internet connection to access this online training. Full attendance is required in order to successfully complete this course.

## HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

**The cost of the training is \$1,100.00.** Limited spaces are available! Complete applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note that applicants who have not secured funding for the training will not be considered complete.

## WHAT DO PARTICIPANTS SAY?

*"My initial fear was that I wouldn't be able to retain the information while listening to it on a screen because my mind would wander.*

*That didn't happen though, because **my educators were engaging and the information was entertaining and fun to learn.** It wasn't a bunch of words thrown at me. It was information I was interested in learning, and that information was obtained and retained."*

*-Thomas Hooks, Virtual PWS Trainee, October 2020*

## REGISTRATION DETAILS

Training dates and the PWS training application can be found online at [mhaoforegon.org/current-trainings](http://mhaoforegon.org/current-trainings)

Contact Emily Nelson with questions at [enelson@mhaoforegon.org](mailto:enelson@mhaoforegon.org) or call her at 503-922-2377 ext. 114.

The Oregon Peer Training & Innovations Center (OPTIC) is a program of the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon. Learn more about MHA AO at [www.mhaoforegon.org](http://www.mhaoforegon.org)

## WHAT CREDENTIALS DOES THIS TRAINING QUALIFY ME FOR?

MHA AO's PWS is state-approved as a Peer Wellness Specialist (Adult Mental Health or Addiction) certification training through the Oregon Health Authority. The PWS is also approved through the Mental Health and Addiction Certification Board of Oregon as a Certified Recovery Mentor eligible training.

**Our training is credentialed through Mental Health America as a National Certified Peer Specialist-approved training. Additionally, we hold certification from NADAAC, the association for addiction professionals, as a continuing education training.**

