



Integrating Peer Workers

What is a Peer Worker?

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines peer support workers as persons who have been successful in the recovery process and help others experiencing similar situations. Through shared understanding, respect, and mutual empowerment, peer support workers help people become and stay engaged in the recovery process and reduce the likelihood of relapse.

Why Does Integrating Peer Workers Matter?

Successfully integrating peer workers into organizations helps create stronger, more recovery-oriented services. Peer workers bring lived experience, empathy, and unique perspectives that can improve relationships, increase trust, and strengthen engagement with individuals seeking support.

Effective Integration can:

- Improve participant engagement and retention
- Build trust and connection through shared lived experience
- Reduce stigma surrounding mental health and substance use
- Strengthen collaboration between providers and communities
- Enhance recovery-focused and person-centered care
- Provide valuable insight into community needs and barriers



To stay up to date on events, training, and conversations happening in behavioral health spaces across Illinois, become a member of our GroupSite:

responsecollaborative.groupsie.com

To submit events, request a training, contact us, or find workforce development opportunities, visit our website: responsecollaborative.com

