

JOB QUALIFICATIONS

An applicant for the Youth Peer Advocate position must:

- Be an individual 18 to 28 years old who has self-identified as a consumer or survivor of mental health services, special education services, or foster care.
- Have either a high school diploma, high school equivalency, or NYS State Education Commencement Credential (e.g. SACC or CDOS).
- Be willing to work with youth eligible for waiver services.
- Be supervised by an individual who meets the criteria for a "qualified mental health staff person" found in 14 NYCRR 594 or 14 NYCRR 595.
- Be cleared by the State Child Abuse Registry and Justice Center requirements.
- Complete fingerprinting for a criminal history background clearance.
- Have a valid driver's license (preferred).
- Complete required training.

Youth Peer Advocates also have to:

- Demonstrate that they have an understanding of and are adequately versed in their own recovery.
- Demonstrate qualities of leadership, including knowledge of advocacy, and group development and/or facilitation of peer-to-peer groups or activities.
- Be able to use lived experience with a mental illness and/or co-occurring disorder to assist in supporting youth in their resiliency/recovery and wellness.
- Have the ability to maintain confidentiality and adherence to Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirement at all times.
- Adhere to deadlines for completion of all required documentation in a timely manner, consistent with agency guidelines.

To become a Youth Peer Advocate, you should be able to demonstrate that you have an understanding of your own recovery. You should possess leadership skills and knowledge of advocacy. You should understand the facilitation of peer-to-peer groups or activities. Importantly, you should be able to use your own lived experiences with mental illness to assist youth in their recovery and wellness.

Keep in mind that the Youth Peer Advocate Service is an HCBS Waiver service. All goals and all planned, structured activities are tied to the individualized service plan coordinated by the Individualized Care Coordinator, or ICC, in conjunction with the youth and his or her family.