



401 Ranch Road 620, Ste. 310  
Austin, TX 78734  
Tel: (512) 708-0629 \* Fax: (888) 506-8123  
www.tcbap.org

---

## Questions and Answers About the New Medicaid Reimbursement Credentials

1. *What new credentials are being issued?*

**Note: These credentials are only for those peers wanting to work in Medicaid reimbursable settings.**

Mental Health Peer Specialist (MHPS), for a person with lived experience in recovery from a mental health condition and working with clients with a mental health setting.

Recovery Support Peer Specialist (RSPS), for a person with lived experience in recovery from a substance use disorder and working with clients in a substance use disorder setting.

2. *I don't work in a setting that bills Medicaid. Am I required to get one or both of these credentials?*

If you are working as a Peer Specialist in a non-Medicaid billing setting, you are not required to get these credentials. Keep in mind, if you had a valid PRSS from the Texas Certification Board or CPS from Via Hope as of December 31, 2018, you are eligible to grandfather into the respective credential you hold during the grandfathering period of February 1, 2019 to April 30, 2019, provided you meet the other standards. After that period you would be required to do the entire credentialing process over again including the training and documentation of supervision hours. TCB suggests if you plan to ever work in the Medicaid billing arena, you go ahead and grandfather into the credential(s) you qualify for.

3. *What is the cost to grandfather into the RSPS or the MHPS?*

TCB charges a \$60.00 fee to grandfather one credential, and an additional fee of \$20 per each additional credential.

4. *I hold a PRSS and want to know if I can grandfather into both credentials?*

You can only grandfather into the credential you are currently certified in. If you hold the PRSS you qualify to grandfather for the RSPS. If you hold the CPS from Via Hope, you qualify for the MHPS credential. If you had both credentials issued to you prior to January 1, 2019, you could then grandfather into both credentials.

5. *When would my credential(s) expire?*

Grandfathered credentials will expire on the date your original certification would expire. For instance, you were issued a PRSS and it expires December 2019, then your grandfathered RSPS would expire on the same date. After that, all credentials expire 2 years after their



401 Ranch Road 620, Ste. 310  
Austin, TX 78734  
Tel: (512) 708-0629 \* Fax: (888) 506-8123  
www.tcbap.org

---

issue date. That would allow you to renew both credentials on the same date. The same for the MHPS credential; if your Via Hope expiration date is December 2019, your recertification date will stay the same. You will be required to verify the 20 CEU renewal training hours and criminal background check.

*6. What supervisor certification are they grandfathering in?*

There was not a Peer Supervisor Certification previously. In order to supervise RSPS or MHPS a person must be a Qualified Peer Supervisor and meet those requirements. A person who has at least two (2) years of experience supervising peer specialists, within the five (5) years prior to the date this rule is initially effective, may apply to The Texas Certification Board to be grandfathered into peer specialist supervisor credential provided they meet the other requirements.

*7. Did Via Hope have a Supervisor certification?*

No, there was not previously a Supervisor credential.

*8. I currently work in the VA system and see mental health and substance abuse patients with my current CPS, but it is not billed through Medicaid due to military medicine. Would I need to get both MHPS and RSPS?*

Public Law 110-387 requires that peer specialists in VA be certified by either a VA approved or state approved certification process. Since Via Hope is no longer the Texas approved certification entity and those previously certified by that entity need to grandfather into the new Texas Certification Board process in order to maintain their "certified" status, VA peer specialists, previously certified by Via Hope, must also grandfather into TCB process so that they maintain their certification status. Not holding the current state approved certificate could result in VA peer specialists being reassigned to a non-peer specialist position or loss of employment.

*9. I have CPS and work in Mental Health arena as well as in a supervisory role with Recovery Coach Training of Trainers through the State. I am not currently conducting training but wanted to know if that qualifies as a supervisor certification that can be grandfathered in.*

If your job as supervisor in the mental health arena was supervising CPS peers, then you would qualify to be a supervisor for the MHPS employees. See #6.

If you are an approved trainer, you can grandfather into that provided you use the curriculum approved by HHSC and meet the other requirements.



401 Ranch Road 620, Ste. 310  
Austin, TX 78734  
Tel: (512) 708-0629 \* Fax: (888) 506-8123  
www.tcbap.org

10. *If my Via Hope or TCB (formerly TCBAP) certification expired in January, can I still grandfather in?*

Yes, provided you meet the criminal background requirements.

11. *I am currently an approved Recovery Coach Trainer and want to know if I can continue using the same approved curriculum?*

The curriculum has been modified for RSPS and MHPS for training entities that will be training for those credentials. You can continue to train using the same curriculum but it would not meet the standard of "using only HHSC approved curriculum". If the people you are training do not intend to work in Medicaid settings then that training meets the TCB standards for the PRSS. We highly suggest you meet the standards for the new credential and get approved as a training entity or trainer since the updated curriculum will be accepted for the PRSS.

12. *What is the scope of practice for a RSPS or MHPS?*

A. A peer specialist provides peer specialist services as described below relating to Services provided:

- 1) All peer specialist services must be recovery oriented, person-centered, relationship focused, and trauma informed.
- 2) Peer specialist services may include:
  - a. recovery and wellness support, which includes providing information on and support with planning for recovery;
  - b. mentoring, which includes serving as a role model and providing assistance in finding needed community resources and services; and
  - c. advocacy, which includes providing support in stressful or urgent situations, and helping to ensure that the recipient's rights are respected.
- 3) Services may be provided individually or in a group.
- 4) Participation in peer specialist services is voluntary.

B. A peer specialist may also provide mental health rehabilitative services that are within the peer specialist's knowledge and abilities.

13. *Where can I get more information on peer services related to Medicaid billing?*

Go to the following link of the Texas Administrative Code

[http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac\\$ext.ViewTAC?tac\\_view=5&ti=1&pt=15&ch=354&sch=N](http://texreg.sos.state.tx.us/public/readtac$ext.ViewTAC?tac_view=5&ti=1&pt=15&ch=354&sch=N)



401 Ranch Road 620, Ste. 310  
Austin, TX 78734  
Tel: (512) 708-0629 \* Fax: (888) 506-8123  
www.tcbap.org

---

*14. Where can I find an approved training to become a RSPS or MHPS?*

TCB will be posting training entities approved by us on our website. You can also look up QPS supervisors on our website if they are credential through TCB.

*15. What kind of background check is required and is this fee covered by the application fee?*

Applicants are required to get a background check that must be completed no more than 30 days prior to TCB receiving the application, even if you recently were required to have a background check by your employer. Background checks should be done through Texas DPS or IdentoGO. If you use Texas DPS, you will need TCIC (state) and NCIC (national) criminal background checks. If using IdentoGO, you will need the FBI background check. The results of the background check must be sent back to the applicant and a copy included in the application package. Do not send background checks directly to TCB's office. The fee for the background check is not covered by the application fee – it is the applicant's responsibility to pay the background check fee.

*16. I am currently an approved Continuing Education Provider through TCB (TCBAP). Do I have to get approved to also provide the Medicaid Peer Specialist training?*

Yes, you have to complete the application and contact TCB regarding fees. We are going to set renewals for the same time frame to avoid confusion.

*17. Since there are two certification entities, do I have to get certified by both, or can I just pick one entity to apply to?*

You will only get certified by one entity.

*18. Will a certification issued by one entity be recognized by the other one?*

Yes, but the certification will be verified if trying to renew.

*19. Will TCB publish ethical standards for both RSPS and MHPS to supplement the high-level guidelines included in the TAC rules?*

Yes, they are now published and have been approved by HHSC. They are on the TCB application forms and the ethical standards were adapted for both credentials.

*20. Will TCB publish a process for submitting an ethics complaint against either an RSPS or an MHPS?*



401 Ranch Road 620, Ste. 310  
Austin, TX 78734  
Tel: (512) 708-0629 \* Fax: (888) 506-8123  
[www.tcbap.org](http://www.tcbap.org)

---

Yes, they are in TCB's standards and there is a link on the web site to file and ethics complaint.

*21. If approved as a Training Entity, where do I find the HHSC approved training curriculum?*

After applying and being approved as a Training Entity, TCB will send you the HHSC approved training curriculum via email.

*22. I am beginning my certification training, is there a specific order in which the training has to be completed?*

As of Feb 1, training needs to occur in the following order:

- (1) Complete online self-assessment and orientation;
- (2) Complete the core peer services training (about an 8-16 hour training) and related knowledge assessment;
- (3) Complete the SUD Recovery Coach or mental health peer training (approximately 46 hours);
- (4) Completion of 250 supervised work experience hours.

**We realize this is a big change and there will be more questions. If you can send in questions by email to [admin@tcbap.org](mailto:admin@tcbap.org) we will update this list promptly.**