



Big changes are coming to Via Hope's training programs!

Dear friends and colleagues,

In order to better serve our community, Via Hope is excited to announce significant changes in our Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Family Partner training programs, effective June 1, 2018. These changes are intended to make the training more readily accessible to applicants across the state that have expressed a need for local training.

First, we will begin to hold Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Family Partner trainings more frequently in a variety of cities across the state so that more people can be trained directly in their own communities. In fact, we want to hear from you! Please fill out this short survey so we can better identify potential geographic areas to hold our future trainings: [Survey](#)

In order to reduce the cost of trainings as we host our trainings in more communities, Via Hope will no longer provide lodging for participants who attend our trainings. Instead, lodging will be the responsibility of the participant or employer for participants who attend trainings outside of their local community. Additionally, Via Hope will no longer be able to provide registration fee waivers and limited scholarship assistance for our training participants. As part of the registration fee, Via Hope will still provide all training materials, experienced trainers, and lunch each day to maintain the high quality training experience for which we continually strive.

These changes will apply to all of Via Hope's Certification and Endorsement trainings for Certified Peer Specialist and Certified Family Partner workforces. The registration fee for Certified Peer Specialist training is being reduced to \$650, and the registration fee for Certified Family Partner training will remain at \$550. The registration fee still includes the certification exam and the two-year certification. As mentioned attendees are responsible for their own transportation and lodging.

Finally, we are excited to offer additional continuing education opportunities in the coming year! We are currently developing new endorsement trainings for peer specialists and family partners in areas like group facilitation and trauma responsiveness. We will provide more information on our new continuing education opportunities in the coming months.

We have been honored to work with all of our communities towards recovery-oriented transformation in Texas for the past nine years. As we look towards the next decade of transformation in the mental health system, we are excited to bring our training to more of our Texas communities and continue to provide quality certification training to our current and future peer specialists and family partners!

Sincerely,

Via Hope

Via Hope Training Model Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why did Via Hope Change their model?

The changes to our training model are a way to provide more frequent trainings in more cities throughout Texas.

2. Why did the pricing change?

Under the old training model, the training was heavily subsidized by our grant from HHSC. The registration fee under the new model is closer to the actual cost of providing the training. Also see #4.

3. Is Via Hope's training no longer subsidized by HHSC?

Via Hope as an organization still receives funding from HHSC. This funding has always supported all of the programs that Via Hope supports, not just training. Some of our funding from other sources is ending, so the HHSC funds have to be distributed differently than they have in the past.

The above referenced programs include the organizational change programs in the Recovery Institute, the Peer Run Organizations program, and the Peer Voice Leadership Program. The funding also supports things like the CPS and CFP Advisory Councils and the Recovery Stakeholders Committee (our advisory committee).

4. Why are you no longer providing lodging?

Our funders, including HHSC, have always expected us to evolve to a training model that is financially self-sustaining and that does not require financial assistance from them. This is a step in that direction.

5. Why are you no longer providing registration waivers?

As our applications have always stated, "we have a limited amount of scholarship assistance available." Registration waivers are a type of scholarship, and we have used all that we have for this year.

6. Why should I take Via Hope's certification training when I can take Mental Health of America National Certification, which costs a lot less?

The MHA national certification does not have a training component. It is meant for advanced peer specialists who have already taken a CPS training. Individuals need to have a current state certification to be eligible for this certification. Also, this national certification will probably not be recognized under the new Medicaid rules allowing peer support to be billed to Medicaid.

7. Will Via Hope offer online endorsement trainings?

Via Hope currently has some online activities, such as webinars, that offer CEUs, and we plan to expand the online offerings for CEUs in the future. Whether that includes full 2-3 day endorsement trainings has not been decided. You can currently take some online courses for CEU credit (Recovery-Oriented Practice and Person-Centered Recovery Planning) [Click here](#).