

ALLIED TRADES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PEER ADVOCATE EDUCATION

WHAT IS A PEER ADVOCATE?

A Peer Advocate is an individual who received specialized training to recognize when a co-worker, or even a friend or family member might be struggling with a substance use issue. Because of their special training, individuals with substance use issues know they can approach a Peer Advocate and get the help needed. Adversely, Peer Advocates are properly educated enough to approach an individual who might be suffering with the disease of addiction, but unsure how to come forward for help. In layman's terms, The Peer Advocate Education Program was created to address workforce needs related to the opioid epidemic. This program will allow a liaison to be available to individuals who are struggling with substance use issues within the workplace. The Peer Advocate will act as a first responder to stabilize their peer until they are able to connect them with their Employee Assistance Program and act as a support person for someone returning from treatment.

WHO CAN BE A PEER ADVOCATE?

Regarding ATAP's program, a Peer Advocate can be anyone who has completed the Changing the Culture of Construction (CCC) Online Awareness Education, located at www.alliedtrades-online.com. The CCC Online Education gives an individual the minimum basic knowledge needed to undertake this specialized education and become an effective Peer Advocate.

WHO WOULD MAKE A GOOD PEER ADVOCATE?

Anyone could make a good Peer Advocate, after all we are talking about workers helping workers or people helping people, and if you are willing to do that, then you already have the basic skills and traits needed to be a Peer Advocate- empathy and compassion. However, some other traits that would make a good Peer Advocate might be: highly respected industry leaders, someone who is honest and trustworthy, an individual who possesses good communication and leadership skills, one who is not afraid of "constructive" confrontation, and most importantly one who is looking to make a positive impact or difference in their organization, community, or family.

HOW DOES ONE BECOME A PEER ADVOCATE?

As stated above, the first step in becoming a Peer Advocate is to complete the CCC online education program; located on ATAP's website www.alliedtrades-online.com ->ATAP Training -> Sign-in/Register. Upon completion of the CCC education simply contact Maria: mariac@alliedtrades-online.com or register on ATAP's website -> ATAP Training -> Peer Advocate. This 4-6 hour educational experience could be the most worthwhile and fulfilling endeavor you have ever undertaken in regards to helping your co-workers, friends, and family members.

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4170 Woodhaven Rd – Philadelphia, PA 19154

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Contact: Maria – mariac@alliedtrades-online.com

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Preventative Education: The Peer Advocate

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- **Understanding EAP's**
- **Understanding Addiction**
- **Understanding Treatment**
- **The Importance of Narcan**
- **How to Recognize an Issue**
- **Communication**
- **Confidentiality**
- **Workplace Impact**
- **Relapse Prevention**
- **Effectiveness of a Peer Advocate and Overall Support**

Who can be a Peer Advocate:

- ✓ Someone who completes the CCC training (part one)
- ✓ Someone who expresses sincere interest in helping others
- ✓ Someone who is nominated by coworkers and/or union representatives
- ✓ Someone who is committed to learning about substance use disorder to help their peers

Who would make a good Peer Advocate?

- ✓ Someone with empathy
- ✓ Someone committed to learning and helping others
- ✓ Someone who has experience with addiction and recovery
- ✓ Someone with strong communication skills
- ✓ Someone who is well respected in the workplace
- ✓ Someone who is honest and trustworthy
- ✓ Someone who is not afraid of constructive confrontation
- ✓ Someone who wants to make a positive difference

To learn more about upcoming classes please contact Maria: mariac@alliedtrades-online.com

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