



Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS) Training Series 2026

The CRS/CFRS training series will be held over five weekends beginning 9/12/26 and concluding 10/11/26. The training is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Drug & Alcohol Programs (DDAP) and hosted by Erie County Office of Drug & Alcohol Abuse (ECOD&A). There is no cost to attend. Priority seating will be given to Erie County residents until 8/7/26.

Erie County SCA is offering a contingency management aspect to this CRS training. Erie County residents who complete the CRS training course, test within 90 days of completion, and pass their exam will receive a \$250 gift card. Erie County SCA will also offer an additional \$250 gift card to any student who then obtains employment in the D&A field in Erie County within six months of becoming certified.

Application fees for certification (\$150 for either CRS/CFRS or \$300 for both) and any testing related costs will be paid for by ECOD&A for Erie County residents. Any non-Erie County residents' application/testing fees will need to be assumed by the student or the referring employer.

Training Location:

Mental Health Association of NW PA
1101 Peach St.
Erie, PA 16501

To Apply:

- Potential candidates must begin by creating an account at <https://www.pacertboard.org/>
- Once an account is created, potential candidates must apply for the class at the following [LINK](#)
- Once approved by facilitator, students will be directed to create an account on DDAP's Training Management System (**required for this class**)
- Students may test for CRS Certification after completing 78 hours of training including 66 classroom hours and 12 hours of work outside the classroom.

*The hours listed here are the minimum hours necessary to complete the curriculum. Actual classroom time may vary from week to week depending on class flow. Students should arrive by 8:15 am and expect to be in class to 4:30 pm each day.



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Date	Course	Hours
9/12/2026	RSC01 - Introduction for the Recovery Specialist	6.5
	The first session in the Recovery Specialist Curriculum (RSC) will introduce the course, covering the history of SUD and recovery. Multiple definitions of recovery will be discussed as well as initial dialogue on the role of the recovery specialist.	
9/13/2026	RSC02 - The Role of the Recovery Specialist	6.5
	The second session in the RSC will conclude the discussion of the role of the Recovery Specialist (RS) and begin the review of communication and professional skills of the RS	
9/19/2026	RSC03 - Communication and Motivational Interviewing	7
	The third session of the RSC will conclude the discussion of the role of the Recovery Specialist (RS) and introduce Motivational Interviewing.	
9/20/2026	RSC04 - Stages of Change and Ethical Considerations	6.5
	The fourth session of the RSC will continue the discussion of Motivational Interviewing and review the Stages of Change. Ethical responsibility and professionalism will also be discussed.	
9/26/2026	RSC05 - Ethical Responsibility and Professionalism	6.5
	The fifth session of the RSC will conclude the discussion on ethics and professionalism. The day will conclude with beginning the discussion on Substance Use Knowledge.	
9/27/2026	RSC06 - Substance Use Knowledge	6
	The sixth session of the RSC will be an in-depth discussion on substance use	
10/3/2026	RSC07 - Co-Occurring/Mental Health and Recovery Planning/Collaboration	6.5
	The seventh session of the RSC will discuss co-occurring disorders and mental health, as well as begin a discussion on recovery planning and collaboration.	
10/4/2026	RSC08 - Recovery Planning/Collaboration and Other Types of Support	6.5
	The eighth session of the RSC will conclude discussion of recovery planning and collaboration. Additionally, other types of support a recovery specialist can provide will be reviewed, including non-clinical support groups, digital recovery support, and advocacy.	
10/10/2026	RSC09 - Advocacy and Cultural Competency	7
	The ninth session of the RSC will conclude discussion on advocacy and begin a discussion on cultural competency.	
10/11/2026	RSC10 - Cultural Competency, Safety and Self-Care	7
	The tenth and final session in the RSC will conclude the discussion of cultural competency and discuss safety and self-care for the recovery specialist.	
	Classroom Total	66
	Out of class assignments	12
	Total Certification Hours	78

Please call Keith Elders at 814-248-9040 for more info or with any questions.