



YPA Credential Pathway Training Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Youth Peer Advocate Training?

The Youth Peer Advocate Training program introduces new YPAs to their role and to the skills they will need to effectively engage, support and empower youth/young adults.

YPA Training includes self-paced online modules, a multi-day, “live” training on Zoom, and a series of coaching phone calls. Successful completion of the YPA Training is required for anyone seeking a Youth Peer Advocate Credential in New York State.

Is there an age requirement for YPA Training?

Youth Peer Advocates must be 18-30 years of age. YPA Credentials automatically expire and cannot be renewed on your 31st birthday.

Is there a cost for YPA Training?

No, there is no cost for individuals or employers. All levels of training are generously supported by the NYS Office of Mental Health.

Do I need to be employed before I start YPA Training?

No, anyone interested in pursuing the Youth Peer Advocate Credential may enroll in the Level 1 Online Training, regardless of employment status.

How do I access Level 1 Online Training?

Level 1 Online Training is hosted by our partners at the Community Technical Assistance Center (CTAC). Visit our website for a “Getting Started Guide” and special access code to enroll:

<https://www.ftnys.org/pathway-to-y-pa-provisional-credential/>

**When you sign-up for a free CTAC Self-Learning Center account, simply select “Other” from the drop-down menu if your Agency is not listed or you are not currently employed.*

How do I access Level 2 Online Training?

Trainees who successfully complete Level 1 Online Training on the CTAC Self-Learning Center will automatically have access to Level 2. All modules must be completed in order of appearance, including knowledge checks.

How long does it take to complete each module in levels 1 & 2 Online Training?

While this level of training is self-paced and time estimates may vary for individual learners, most report spending 30 minutes to an hour to complete each module.

What if I need technical support?

If you run into any issues while navigating the CTAC Self Learning Center, please email CTAC Help Desk at ctac.info@nyu.edu and allow up to 3 business days for a reply.

How do I register for Advanced 4-Day Virtual Training?

Registration for advanced, 4-Day Virtual Training (STEP 4) is announced roughly once a quarter on our website and e-newsletters. Please carefully review the strict eligibility requirements:

- Completion of Level 1 & Level 2 Online Training
- Hold a valid YPA Provisional Credential
- Providing Youth Peer Support Services to families for at least 3 months independently

Visit our website to learn more: <https://www.ftnys.org/pathway-to-ypa-professional-credential/>

Do I have to attend all 4 days of advanced training in full/from start to finish?

Yes, trainees must attend the training in full/from start to finish to receive credit and continue on to the coaching calls. Active participation in group activities and discussion is also monitored by trainers.

How do I register for Coaching Calls?

Trainees who successfully complete the advanced, 4-Day Virtual Training will be automatically registered for Coaching Calls. Trainers will cover coaching call expectations in detail during the live training. We will meet twice per week for one-hour calls; the total number of calls scheduled depends on the size of the training group, usually 12-16.

Do I need to pass a “Final Exam” to receive my Professional Credential?

No, there is no exam for the YPA Provisional (temporary) or Professional Credential. Youth Peer Advocates who successfully complete all components of YPA Training, including surveys, will receive a final Certificate of Completion.

Is accommodation available for YPA Training?

Yes, Families Together in NYS, Inc. is committed to ensuring equal opportunity for persons with disabilities. It is our policy to provide reasonable accommodation to support your training and credential pathway. We may collaborate with our organizational partners and your employer agency to find creative solutions. If you require training accommodation, please contact our Training & Workforce Development Department at YPACredential@ftnys.org to discuss further.

Are there any other training courses that can replace YPA Training?

No, the YPA Training administered by Families Together in NYS, Inc. is the only curriculum approved by the Office of Mental Health for the YPA Credential.

I am credentialed in another state; do I have to complete YPA Training?

Yes, there is no credential reciprocity with other states at this time.

Is YPA Training available for YPA Supervisors?

As outlined in the Children and Family Treatment and Support Services (CFTSS) Manual, supervisors of Youth Peer Advocates who are not credentialed peers themselves are required to participate in training on the YPA role. You will be completing the same Level 1 training modules that YPAs complete as part of their credentialing process.

Visit our website for a “Getting Started Guide” and link to the CTAC Self-Learning Center:

<https://www.ftnys.org/ypa-orientation-for-supervisors/>