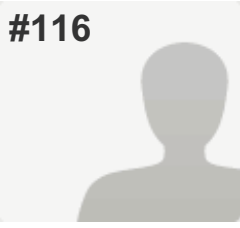


# Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

#116



**COMPLETE**

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PAGE 1

**Q1: OPTIONAL: This recommendation was submitted by (please provide your first and last name, affiliation, and email address)**

First Name	Sharen
Last Name	Duke
Affiliation	AIDS Service Center NYC (ASCNYC)
Email Address	sharen@ascnyc.org

<b>Q2: Title of your recommendation</b>	NYSDOH NYSDOH Peer Health Coach Certification (eligible for Medicaid reimbursement)
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## Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

### Q3: Please provide a description of your proposed recommendation

#### NYSDOH Peer Certification Standards

NYSDOH will implement a Certification Training Program for individuals living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, mental illness and/or substance use to complete in order to be designated by NYSDOH as a Certified Peer Health Coach. NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coaches will be eligible to offer Medicaid reimbursable services as part of case finding and/or care management programs.

NYSDOH Peer Certification requirements will include successful completion of:

- Peer Education Core Training Curriculum (80 training hours and required topics)
- Peer Internship Placement (250 hours of service/up to 6 months)
- Supervision (24 hours of supervision in health care or community-based setting)
- Written Exam

NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coaches will be trained to conduct:

- Outreach: Health Information/Outreach/Case Finding/Referral to HIV/HepC/STI Screening
- Care Coordination: Enrollment/Reminder Phone Calls/Accompaniment to Appointments/Health Education/Referral Follow-Up
- Adherence: Treatment Adherence Support/Reminder Phone Calls/Accompaniment to Appointments/Service Documentation

Agencies wishing to receive placement of NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coaches will be required to have designated staff successfully complete a Peer Health Coach Supervisory Training (online or in-person; 6 training hours).

NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coaches will be required to re-certify every 3 years, and demonstrate successful completion of a minimum of 30 continuing education hours.

NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coach Eligibility criteria may include:

- 18 years old
- HS or GED
- Housing Stability

NYSDOH Certified Peer Health Coaches may obtain additional certification in specialty areas such as OMH Certification for Peer Specialists and OASAS Certification for Recovery Peer Advocates. Both OMH and OASAS have additional certification criteria

### Q4: For which goal outlined in the Governor's plan to end the epidemic in New York State does this recommendation apply? (Select all that apply)

Identifying persons with HIV who remain undiagnosed and linking them to health care

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Linking and retaining persons diagnosed with HIV to health care and getting them on anti-HIV therapy to maximize HIV virus suppression so they remain healthy and prevent further transmission

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Facilitating access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for high-risk persons to keep them HIV negative

## Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

**Q5: This recommendation should be considered by the following Ending the Epidemic Task Force Committee (Select all that apply)**

Prevention Committee: Develop recommendations for ensuring the effective implementation of biomedical advances in the prevention of HIV, (such as the use of Truvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)); for ensuring access for those most in need to keep them negative; and for expansion of syringe exchange, expanded partner services, and streamlined HIV testing by further implementing the universal offer of HIV testing in primary care, among others. The Committee will focus on continuing innovative and comprehensive prevention and harm reduction services targeted at key high risk populations, as well as grant-funded services that engage in both secondary and primary prevention.

Care Committee: Develop recommendations to support access to care and treatment in order to maximize the rate of HIV viral suppression. The Committee will promote linkages and retention in care to achieve viral suppression and promote the highest quality of life while significantly decreasing the risks of HIV transmission. Recommendations will also ensure a person centered approach is taken and that access to culturally and linguistically appropriate prevention and health care services is available.

Housing and Supportive Services Committee: Develop recommendations that strengthen proven interventions enabling optimal engagement and linkage and retention in care for those most in need. This Committee will recommend interventions that effectively address complex and intersecting health and social conditions and reduce health disparities, particularly among New York's low-income and most vulnerable and marginalized residents. These interventions will diminish barriers to care and enhance access to care and treatment leaving no subpopulation behind.

**Q6: Does this recommendation require a change to an existing policy or program, or the creation of a new policy or program?**

Change to existing program

**Q7: Would implementation of this recommendation be permitted under current laws or would a statutory change be required?**

Permitted under current law

## Ending the Epidemic Task Force Recommendation Form

**Q8: Is this recommendation something that could feasibly be implemented in the short-term (within the next year) or long-term (within the next three to six years)?**

Within the next year

**Q9: What are the perceived benefits of implementing this recommendation?**

Certification of Peer Health Coaches is an investment in a cost effective approach to deliver services in the evolving Medicaid healthcare delivery system, leading to long-term stability, increased access to medical care, enhanced social connections and improved health outcomes for people living with HIV and other chronic medical conditions in NYC.

Peer Health Coaches will provide health education, peer coaching, accompaniment to appointments, meals, and routine communication with medical staff to ensure that patients living with HIV and other chronic illnesses receive consistent, high quality care. Peer Health Coaches provide the individualized support necessary to sustaining patients in care.

**Q10: Are there any concerns with implementing this recommendation that should be considered?**

Coordination with establishment of Medicaid HARPs and reimbursement levels for 1915i peer delivered services.

**Q11: What is the estimated cost of implementing this recommendation and how was this estimate calculated?**

NYSDOH will need to make an initial investment in curriculum development and designation of one or more training facilities to conduct Peer Health Coach Certification trainings, internship placements, monitoring, and establishment of a NYSDOH Peer Certification Registry.

**Q12: What is the estimated return on investment (ROI) for this recommendation and how was the ROI calculated?**

Certification of Peer Health Coaches is a cost effective investment in linkage and retention in care services that will contribute to decrease missed appointments; decreased inpatient days; decreased ER utilization; increased outpatient visits; and increased viral suppression.

**Q13: Who are the key individuals/stakeholders who would benefit from this recommendation?**

People living with HIV/AIDS; HIV medical and behavioral health providers, Health Homes, HARPs, MCO, ADHCs and Community Based Organizations.

**Q14: Are there suggested measures to accompany this recommendation that would assist in monitoring its impact?**

# HIV+ people receiving certified peer health coach services who:

- visit MD every 3-6 months
- achieve viral suppression within 6 months
- sustain viral suppression after 12 months
- # hospitalizations and days spent inpatient
- # ER visits

**Q15: This recommendation was submitted by one of the following** Ending the Epidemic Task Force member