RHODE ISLAND Cross Disability COALITION

PEER SUPPORT Cooperative of Rhode Island

Are You Interested in Knowing More About "PEER SUPPORTS"?

What Are "PEER SUPPORTS"?

Peer Support is a new approved support service under RI's HCBS Waiver for adults with developmental disabilities who receive services from the RI State Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD). Support is to help people understand the choices they have for DD adult services, improve their independence and self-advocacy, learn about technology and employment, and to discover opportunities for community participation, belonging and living the best life possible. Services focus on empowerment for each person!

WHO Provides Peer Supports?

Peer Supports are provided by a trained *Peer Support Specialist,* a person who has a disability and lived experience, just like you! They are trained to provide *information, guidance and support* to adults with developmental disabilities on choices for services and community resources to live the life they want. *While staff or others might tell you what to do, a peer can show you how to really live it!*

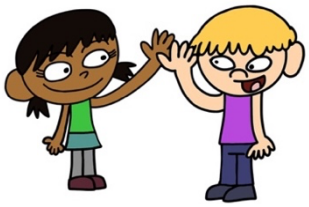
What Do Peer Support Specialists Do?

A Peer Support Specialist is a mentor, guide and role model who **LEADS:**

Listens, Educates, Advocates, Demonstrates & Supports

What Information or Support Can Peer Supports Help Me With?

- Understanding choices you have for adult services from State Agencies like DD, Office of Rehabilitative Services (ORS/VR), and the Department of Labor and Training (DLT)
- Learning how to participate more in your Annual Plan Meeting
- Ideas to make friends and develop relationships
- Improving your communication and self-advocacy skills
- Information/training on Technology to assist you to be independent
- Making your own self-advocacy video or a *"Personal Profile"*
- Understanding about benefits of employment and self-employment
- Learning about budgeting, shopping and saving money
- Increasing your self-determination and decision-making to control your life



HOW Can I Get Information or Connect with a Peer Support Specialist?

The RI Cross Disability Coalition is involved in a statewide Peer Support Cooperative Pilot Project that will start in June 2026. Our Peer Support Specialists are a diverse group of people who will all be independent small business owners specifically trained in the areas of Peer Supports, Technology and Small Business Ownership. We are really looking forward to working with you!



For more information contact: Nicole Fontenault, Project Manager, nicole@ricrossdisability.org 401-649-3321 or Christina Battista, Peer Support Coordinator, christina@riddc.org 401-647-6144.

