

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 abuse issue. Peer Advocates are basically first-responders in the workplace. Because of their special training, individuals with substance abuse 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, A Peer Advocate is a caring individual with specialized training who can stabilize a person suffering with substance abuse issues, until they can be seen by a licensed professional who would assess them and recommend a necessary treatment plan.

WHO CAN BE A PEER ADVOCATE?

In regard to 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/login. 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 complete the CCC online education program; located on ATAP's website (www.alliedtrades-online.com) or directly at this link: www.alliedtrades-online.com/login. Upon completion of the CCC education simply contact ATAP's Office (mariac@alliedtrades-online.com) and tell them you are interested in becoming a Peer Advocate, and they will register you for the next training session in your area, or register you for the Peer Advocate Training online; your choice. 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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