



Illinois CRSS Certification Process

WHAT IS A CRSS?

- A Certified Recovery Support Specialist is an individual with personal, lived experience with mental health or co-occurring mental health and substance use recovery.
- CRSS professionals have completed state requirements in order to provide compassionate, supportive services to others in recovery
- CRSS professionals are considered Mental Health Professionals and are recognized by Rule 132 & 140 in the State of Illinois to bill Medicaid for services.

WHERE TO START

- Visit the [Illinois Credentialing Board](#) to download the [CRSS Model](#). This is a comprehensive guide to Illinois requirements for becoming certified.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

- CPRS Application Fee \$ 85.00
- Examination \$125.00
- Annual Certification Fee \$ 70.00

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2,000 hours: Paid or volunteered, within the last 4 years
- at least 51% of duties must involve providing direct services
- Services can be provided to individuals or groups

SUPERVISION

- 100 hours of documented supervision provided by an individual knowledgeable in Performance Domains
- Direct/indirect observation
- Time spent discussing work performance and/or topics relevant to job duties

TRAINING/EDUCATION

- Must have high school diploma or GED
- 100 clock hours of training in specified domains:
 - 40 hours CRSS specific
 - 6 hours Professional Ethics & Responsibility
 - 54 hours Core Functions
- Complete Education Forms (Page 8 of application) for EACH training you attend.
- Save Certificates of Education (CEUs)

NOW WHAT?

- Visit the [Illinois Credentialing Board](#) to download the [CRSS Application](#).
- Complete the application in its entirety. Incomplete applications will be returned.
- Have your supervisor sign pages 4 & 7.
- Sign pages 4, 6, 9, and 10.
- Read and understand pages 11-13 (CRSS Code of Ethics)
- Page 14 requires a Notary signature. **Do not sign this page until you are with the Notary!**
- Mail your completed application, education forms, CEUs, and payment to the ICB. They will contact you regarding the status of your application and to schedule your test.

CERTIFICATION TESTING

- Once your application is approved, you will be able to schedule your test. Testing sites are limited.
- Most testing sites charge a Test Proctoring fee. This will be unique to the testing site you choose.
- Use the [CRSS Study Guide](#) to help prepare for your test.