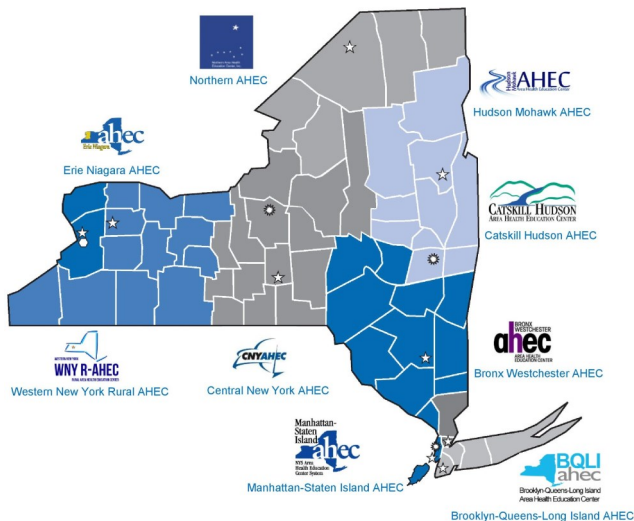


## The New York State Area Health Education Center (NYS AHEC) System

Founded in 1998, the NYS AHEC System is a workforce development initiative that is both state and federally funded. With nine centers, three regional offices, and the statewide office, the NYS AHEC System serves all 62 counties of New York State. Together, our system is dedicated to creating a diverse health workforce with an emphasis on medically underserved areas in both rural and urban communities. The NYS AHEC System is working to combat the opioid epidemic through a variety of programs focused on education, prevention, treatment, and recovery. For more information on our opioid-related programs, please visit our website.



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OPIOID USE PEER RECOVERY  
NETWORK DEVELOPMENT



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## Program Objectives

The Opioid Use Peer Recovery Network Development Program aims to develop and grow a network of certified recovery peer advocates (CRPAs) to support recovery for individuals with opioid use disorder.

The lack of qualified opioid peer advocates is a significant barrier for individuals who are in active recovery.

The Opioid Use Peer Recovery Network Development Program will serve individuals in current recovery who are looking to be gainfully employed and provide support for all individuals struggling with opioid use disorder.

This program will provide participants with the tools and structure to gain employment while helping to expand the capacity and infrastructure of the substance use recovery system throughout Western New York.

## Scope of Work

- Train peer advocate trainers
- Connect a cohort of peers interested in becoming certified recovery peer advocates with training opportunities
- Link newly trained peer advocates to open vacancies in the area
- Enhance provider ability to support sustained recovery of individuals via peer advocate led trainings

The NYS AHEC System is collaborating with the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) and the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force (ECOETF) to serve 8 counties within the Western New York Region: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming.

FOR IMMEDIATE HELP WITH SUBSTANCE USE CALL:

**1-877-8-HOPENY**

## Benefits of Peer Recovery Advocates

Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPAs) are certified through the New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) to provide non-clinical support services for individuals entering treatment or recovery for opioid use disorder.

Utilizing peer support systems fills a need not provided for by medical treatment from healthcare providers – a social support system.

Peer supports help:

- People become & stay engaged in the recovery process
- Reduce prevalence of relapse
- Improve overall recovery rates

Through shared understanding and mutual empowerment, peer supports play an integral role in recovery.

