

# The Colorado Certified Prevention Specialist II

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# Why Certify Prevention Professionals?

- ▶ Prevention helps address significant and costly SUD challenges
  - ▶ SUDs are the leading cause of death
  - ▶ The national costs for SUDs from lost productivity, public health and safety expenses top \$460 billion annually
  - ▶ Easier to address challenges upstream
  - ▶ \$1 prevention = \$10 cost savings
  - ▶ Qualified professionals maximize efforts
- ▶ Certification benefits professionals and employers
  - ▶ Professionalizes the field
  - ▶ Establishes thresholds for experience and training
- ▶ Certification benefits state agencies
  - ▶ Ensures basic competencies among grantees

# Administering Colorado's CPS II

- ▶ **IC&RC**
  - ▶ Authorizes member Boards to issue credential
  - ▶ Provides minimum experience and training standards for the certification
  - ▶ Develops and administers exam
  - ▶ Facilitates reciprocity between member Boards
- ▶ **Colorado Prevention Certification Board (CPCB)**
  - ▶ Determines any Colorado specific standards
  - ▶ Determines application process
  - ▶ Reviews applications and issues the certification
- ▶ **COPA**
  - ▶ Hosts and staffs the CPCB
  - ▶ Administers the certification

# About the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC)

- ▶ Established in 1981
- ▶ Offers 8 different credentials in prevention, treatment and recovery
- ▶ Provides standards and examinations to certification and licensing boards in 25 countries, 47 states and territories, 5 Native American Regions and all branches of the U.S. military
- ▶ More than 45,000 individuals hold IC&RC credentials

# About IC&RC Credentials

- ▶ Credentials utilize latest research and evidence-based practices
- ▶ Credentials updated every five years
- ▶ Credentials developed by people working in the field and subjected to extensive peer review
- ▶ Each jurisdiction regularly audited to ensure compliance with international standards
- ▶ Credentials reciprocal with other jurisdictions
  - ▶ Reciprocal to other jurisdiction that offer the same IC&RC credential
  - ▶ Jurisdictions may set additional reciprocity standards

# IC&RC Exam Development

- ▶ Each exam based on formal job analyses
- ▶ Each exam developed and written by subject matter experts (SMEs) and supported by current references
- ▶ SMEs assisted by professional testing company when developing questions
- ▶ Each question undergoes a three-tiered review process to ensure quality and accuracy before becoming a scored item on an IC&RC exam

# IC&RC Exam Administration

- ▶ IC&RC contracts with Schroeder Measurement Technologies (SMT) to administer exam
  - ▶ SMT administers exams for 40 different professional credentials
  - ▶ SMT administers more than 100,000 exams annually
- ▶ Exams computer-based
  - ▶ Multiple secure and monitored locations throughout the world and Colorado
  - ▶ Allows flexibility in scheduling, lower cost and rapid results
  - ▶ Improves assessment of the exam and how particular questions perform
  - ▶ Special accommodations available as needed
- ▶ Practice exams and candidate guides available

# IC&RC's Prevention Specialist Credential

- ▶ Created in 1994 and adopted in 56 jurisdictions
- ▶ Designed so that professionals demonstrate competency through experience, education, supervision and by passing a rigorous exam
- ▶ Credential standards and exam developed and maintained by international experts in ATOD prevention
- ▶ Candidates must demonstrate experience and training in 6 domains
  - ▶ Planning and evaluation
  - ▶ Education and skill development
  - ▶ Communication
  - ▶ Public policy and environmental change
  - ▶ Professional growth and responsibility
- ▶ Ethics

# Colorado's CPS II Credential

- ▶ Partnership between providers, practitioners and the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health
- ▶ Created the Colorado Prevention Certification Board
- ▶ 90-day grandfathering period ended in October, 2013
- ▶ 208 people credentialed during grandfathering
- ▶ Credential valid for 2 years
- ▶ All new applicants must now take the exam

# Colorado's Standards for New Prevention Specialist Applicants

## Education

- ▶ 120 hours of prevention specific training across 6 domains within last 5 years
- ▶ 31 hours must be Substance Abuse Prevention Skills Training (SAPST)
- ▶ 6 hours prevention ethics

## Experience

- ▶ 2000 hours of volunteer or paid work experience specific to the 6 domains within last 7 years

## Supervision

- ▶ 120 hours of supervision specific to the domains, provided by an organization's documented and qualified supervisory staff

## Examination

- ▶ Must pass the IC&RC Prevention Specialist Examination

**Code of Ethics** - Each applicant must sign

# Other Application Items for New Candidates

- ▶ 24 hours of education must be ATOD specific
- ▶ College or university credits may be applicable up to 45 hours
- ▶ Applicants must live or work 51% or more of their time in Colorado
- ▶ Applicants must disclose:
  - ▶ Felony or misdemeanor convictions
  - ▶ Diagnosis or treatment for pedophilia, exhibitionism or voyeurism
  - ▶ Current use of illegal substances or misuse or abuse of drugs or alcohol
  - ▶ Any rejection of censure by a professional association
  - ▶ Legal actions and settlements pending and rendered against you in relationship to performance of professional services

# Credentialing Process

1. Applicant pays application fee and submits completed application
2. Staff determine whether the application is complete and sufficient for review
3. Board evaluates application and determines whether applicant eligible for exam
4. Staff work with applicants to schedule exam
5. Applicants take exam and either pass or fail.
6. If exam passed, applicants are certified by the jurisdiction

# Other Important Considerations

- ▶ 2 year credential
- ▶ CPS II's must complete 40 hours of continuing education every two years
- ▶ Fees
  - ▶ All fees are non-refundable
  - ▶ New application is \$295 (\$50 to start, \$245 to complete)
  - ▶ Renewal is \$200/every 2 years
  - ▶ CPCB pays for first exam.
  - ▶ Applicants pays for retest and cancelled exams

# Colorado Providers Association (COPA) and IC&RC

- ▶ About COPA
  - ▶ A nonprofit trade association established in 1994
  - ▶ Represent providers in SA prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery
  - ▶ IC&RC's member Board in Colorado
- ▶ Host
  - ▶ Provide staff support, insurance and manage finances
- ▶ Administrator
  - ▶ Process applications
  - ▶ Manage web site and database
- ▶ Representative
  - ▶ Promote and market credential
  - ▶ Represent Colorado Board at IC&RC meetings

# Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long will the application process take?
  - ▶ It depends on the completeness of the applications and the date of submission. The CPCB generally meets once a month. After approval by the Board, the applicant can schedule the exam when convenient
2. How long can I take to complete the application requirements?
  - ▶ Applications are left open indefinitely. There is no restriction on how soon it must be completed.
3. Do CAC classes count towards training requirements?
  - ▶ All trainings must be prevention specific, so if a class relates to prevention or ATOD prevention it could count. However, the CPCB makes all decisions.
4. What should I use to prove attendance at a particular training?
  - ▶ Staff will accept written documents that sufficiently demonstrate that a candidate attended a training. Generally candidates submit certificates or transcripts.

# More FAQ's

1. What do I do if the CPCB determines my application or renewal is insufficient?
  - ▶ Generally, if the application or renewal is insufficient, the CPCB will ask for more information. Applicants can also appeal the CPCB's decision.
2. Why am I getting so many emails during the application process?
  - ▶ The online database automatically sends the applicant emails when parts of the application are approved. Applicants may receive multiple emails that specific trainings have been verified by staff.
3. How will I know when I am certified?
  - ▶ You will receive an emailing that states you have passed the exam and are certified by the CPCB. You will also receive a hard copy of your certificate in the mail.

# Links to Additional Information

IC&RC Home page

<http://internationalcredentialing.org/>

Colorado Certified Prevention Specialist home page

<http://copreventionworks.com/>

# Other questions?

Matt Sundeen

[Matt@coprovidersassociation.org](mailto:Matt@coprovidersassociation.org)