



Peer Connect



WHAT IS PEER CONNECT?



Youth Peer Connect Training is a 5-day, 40-hour training designed to prepare young adults with lived experience in youth-serving systems with the necessary skills, knowledge, and practical approaches to be effective youth peer support providers in various fields and positions. The training addresses the stages of the human emotional and psychological brain and socio-cultural development to inform the knowledge, skill sets, and world views required to effectively work with a youth and/or young adult population. The curriculum focuses on three areas: mutual learning, skill building and practice, and experiential group processing.

YOUTH MOVE NATIONAL EFFORTS



Youth MOVE National's Peer Connect initiative continued its efforts in September 2024 to expand and strengthen youth peer support programs in Maine, Alabama, and Utah. Peer Connect provides a comprehensive framework to help states develop youth peer support (YPS) infrastructure—starting with readiness, moving through core training, and offering ongoing education, with Train-the-Trainer efforts ongoing for these states to house and run this model locally!

This month, we completed core training for three cohorts of Youth Peer Support Specialist (YPSS) supervisors in Maine and one cohort of Certified Peer Specialist – Youth (CPS-Y) supervisors in Alabama. In Utah, we are completing the assessment process and beginning co-reflection and professional development sessions for youth peer support trainees who completed our first Utah Peer Connect YPS training in August and passed their assessments.

Peer Connect is currently the state-recognized model for youth peer support in Maine, Alabama, and most recently Utah, which has just finalized its process for offering state-recognized certification for those who complete our core youth peer support training.

– YMN Youth Program Coordinator, Shayn McDonald (They/Them)

GRADUATE TESTIMONIES

The presenters were great, knowledgeable and supportive to open discussion. Responsive to questions and flexible in the moment to respond.

–Peer Connect Graduate

I really appreciate the focus on considerations to keep in mind through this work, such as not jumping to a problem-solving mindset, allowing people space to talk/ listen and validate. Also, the focus on social justice in this work. The concept of resilience has never settled well with me and this presentation articulated that critique very well, thank you!

–Peer Connect Graduate



**Total Trained
Clinicians in 2024**

16



**Total Trained
Supervisors in 2024**

38

**Total Trained Youth
Peer Supporters
2022 - 2023**

50

**Total Trained Youth
Peer Supporters
2023 - 2024**

29

**Interested in Peer Connect Certification for yourself,
a group, or your states workforce?**

Contact us at info@youthmovenational.org!



August Wrap-Up



COMMUNITY IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

The Youth MOVE National Peer Center released:



*Youth Peer Support 101 course:
Own Your Story & Be a Resource for Change*

11 registered for the no-cost course in August

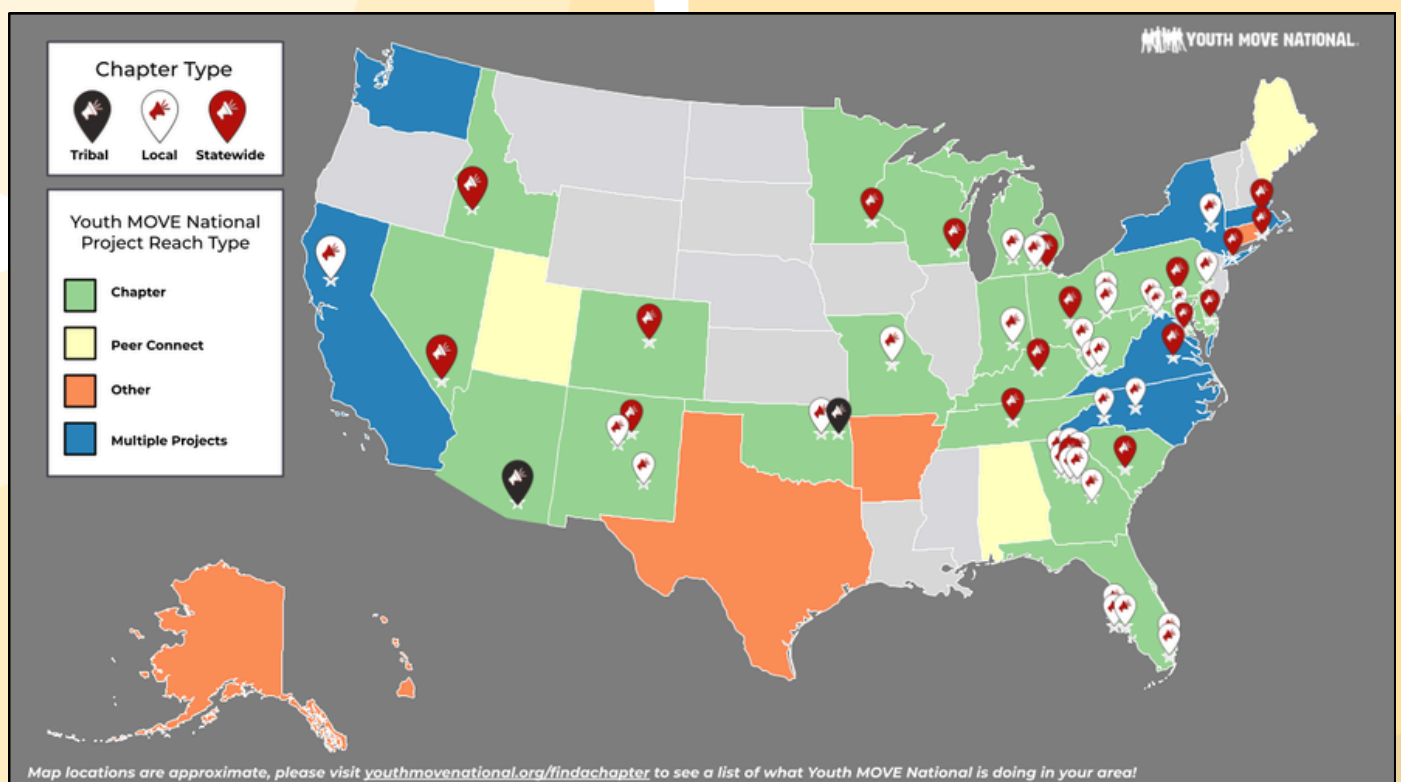
The Youth MOVE National Peer Center & Pacific Southwest MHTTC released:



Trauma-Informed Youth Peer Support Training Module

52 completed the no-cost course in August

YOUTH MOVE NATIONAL REACH



Check out youthmovenational.org/findchapter to view the full map