

Certification

Lead the Nation! ***Become One of the First Certified Employment Services Professionals (CESP)***

APSE has established the Employment Support Professional Certification Council (ESPCC) to oversee the first national certification program for employment support professionals. Now job coaches, job developers, transition employment specialists, job placement personnel, and employment specialists/consultants* can earn the designation of **Certified Employment Support Professional (CESP)** by passing the national **CESP** examination.

Benefits of Certification

CESP certification provides national guidelines to validate and support the **training** currently provided by university, community colleges, and other technical training centers across the country. **CESP** certification also enables portability across all states and regions.

For employment support professionals: CESP certification shows colleagues, supervisors and the individuals that you serve that you **completed** a rigorous process to earn your national professional credential.

CESP certification opens the door to:

**Improved professional advancement & job opportunities;*

**Increased income opportunities.*

**Enhanced credibility with employers*

For provider agencies and Community Rehabilitation Programs (CRPs): Sponsoring staff to earn their **CESP** credentials, or hiring **CESP**-certified professionals, increases your credibility with community business leaders and opens the door to new employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

Supporting CESP certification for your staff:

**Increases your marketing edge with employers & businesses*

**Assures the public and consumers of your commitment to best practices*

**Validates your commitment to ethical and safety standards*

National certification is earned by passing a comprehensive examination based on national standardized competencies and administered by an independent professional organization. To maintain certification professionals are required to earn continuing education (CE) **credits** over time. The **Certified Employment Services Professional (CESP)** is being developed in compliance with the guidelines of the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the accrediting body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence.

Is certification only for APSE members?

The **CESP** examination is open to anyone, member or non-member, who meets the eligibility requirements and wants to gain the benefits of certification on a voluntary basis. *Membership in APSE, or any other organization, is neither a requirement nor does it award any **credit** toward eligibility.*

How can state agencies, state APSE chapters and others set up and fund the CESP examination sessions?

State and federal agencies, APSE chapters and other organizations can contract with ESPCC to conduct a total of one or more **CESP** examination sessions in one state or region at discounted rates. State agencies that can sponsor the **CESP** examination may include, but is not limited to: Vocational Rehabilitation, Developmental Disabilities Council, Mental Health or Developmental Disabilities State Service or state Medicaid Infrastructure Grant programs.

Another option is to **offer** the examination at professional conferences and/or state a meeting which will save time and money. The exam administration takes four hours to administer.

How do I prepare to take the CESP examination?

ESPCC recognizes that there are many valuable training programs across the country that may prepare professionals to pass the ESPCC examination. ESPCC does not endorse specific training programs and ESPCC does not engage in education or training programs. The CESP candidate handbook provides the test blueprint to assist individuals to prepare to take the CESP exam (see the APSE web site at www.apse.org).

CESP Examination Opportunities in 2012

The **CESP** examination will be offered at the National APSE conference on June 26, 2012 in Arlington, VA (see preconference registration at www.apse.org). New Hampshire will be hosting a second exam session on May 2, 2012. Several other states are considering offering examination sessions in 2012. Please check the APSE website (www.apse.org) to find exam offerings.

Thanks to our Current State & Organizational Sponsors: Arkansas, Indiana, Minnesota, & Wisconsin awarded funds to establish the national certification from their Medicaid Infrastructure Grants (MIG). On December 2, 2011 New Hampshire became the first state to sponsor the CESP exam, and subsequently award the first CESP credentials in the nation.

** (The CESP examination was developed for professionals who provide employment services to individuals with a variety of disabilities including intellectual, mental health, autism spectrum disorders and multiple physical & sensory disabilities)*

For more information or to sponsor an exam session in your state please contact:

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[Download the Certified Employment Services Professional \(CESP\) Exam Application here.](#)

[Download the Certified Employment Services Professional \(CESP\) Candidate Handbook here.](#)

