

Certified Prevention Specialist Handbook

Your Guide to Meeting Requirements, Passing
the Exam, and Maintaining Certification



About The Prevention Specialist Handbook



Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook is designed to serve as a comprehensive, user-friendly guide for individuals seeking to become a Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) in the state of Nevada. It outlines the education, training, and experience requirements; explains the application and examination process; and provides resources to help you prepare, apply, and maintain your credential.

What You'll Find in This Handbook

- 🔍 **Certification Requirements** A breakdown of the education, training, experience, and ethics standards you must meet to become a Certified Prevention Specialist in Nevada.
- 🔍 **Application Process** Step-by-step instructions for preparing, submitting, and tracking your certification application through the Nevada Certification Board.
- 🔍 **Exam Preparation** An overview of the IC&RC Prevention Specialist exam, including format, content domains, and study tips.
- 🔍 **Maintaining Your Credential** Guidelines for continuing education, renewal timelines, and professional development to keep your certification active.
- 🔍 **Resources & Tools** Links to approved training providers, CE tracking templates, and professional support networks to help you succeed.

Why This Handbook Matters

- ◉ **Clarity** It provides a clear explanation of Nevada’s CPS requirements, helping you understand exactly what education, training, and experience you need.
- ◉ **Consistency** It ensures that all applicants follow the same standards and procedures set by the Nevada Certification Board and IC&RC.
- ◉ **Support** It serves as your go-to resource for navigating each step of the process; from your first training hour to maintaining your credential.

This handbook is a living document and may be updated periodically to reflect changes in certification requirements, ethics guidelines, or professional standards. Please ensure you are familiar with its contents, as it is an important tool in your professional growth and success.

Important Note



While this handbook provides valuable information, it does not replace the official guidance provided by the Nevada Certification Board. Always refer to the Nevada Certification Board’s website and IC&RC resources for the most current requirements. For additional support or clarification, you can reach out to:

Mailing **Nevada Certification Board**
Address **PO Box 13122**
Reno, NV 89507

Email **contactus@nevadacertboard.org**

Website **<https://nevadacertboard.org>**

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01

Understanding the Prevention Specialist Certification in Nevada



What is a Certified Prevention Specialist?

A Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) is a behavioral health professional trained to prevent the onset and reduce the severity of substance use disorders and related public health issues through evidence-based strategies. Holding an entry-level credential, CPSs work directly with individuals, families, and communities to foster wellness and build resilience by addressing risk and protective factors that influence behavioral health outcomes. Grounded in prevention science and public health principles, they engage sectors across the community; including schools, workplaces, healthcare settings, and coalitions to implement sustainable, evidence-informed interventions targeting alcohol, tobacco, and drug misuse.

Their work is informed by an understanding of the social determinants of health and tailored to diverse populations, whether it be a single high school, an entire county, or a vulnerable group such as the unhoused population. Through supervised experience, CPSs are equipped to use their creativity, interpersonal skills, and deep knowledge of substance use to deliver programs that reduce risk, strengthen protective factors, and promote equity and well-being at both the individual and community levels.

Certified Prevention Specialists ensure that prevention programs are evidence-based, culturally appropriate, and aligned with community needs to avoid unintended harm. They are trained to critically evaluate and implement strategies backed by research, using data to guide planning and continuous improvement. This is essential, as past programs such as scare-based drug campaigns have sometimes caused more harm than good due to lack of evidence. By relying on proven practices and ongoing evaluation, CPSs help ensure prevention efforts are both effective and safe for the communities they serve.

About the Nevada Certification Board and International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium

The Nevada Certification Board (NCB) is the state-recognized body that administers CPS credentials in Nevada. NCB sets the professional standards, reviews applications, issues certifications, and ensures compliance with the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) guidelines. In addition, NCB approves training providers and is the ethical compliance board.

The International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium is a global network of certification boards. Nevada's CPS credential is part of IC&RC's prevention certification system, which means your credential can be recognized in other participating states and countries.

Benefits of Certification

Becoming a Certified Prevention Specialist in Nevada provides numerous advantages for both the individual and the organizations or communities they serve:

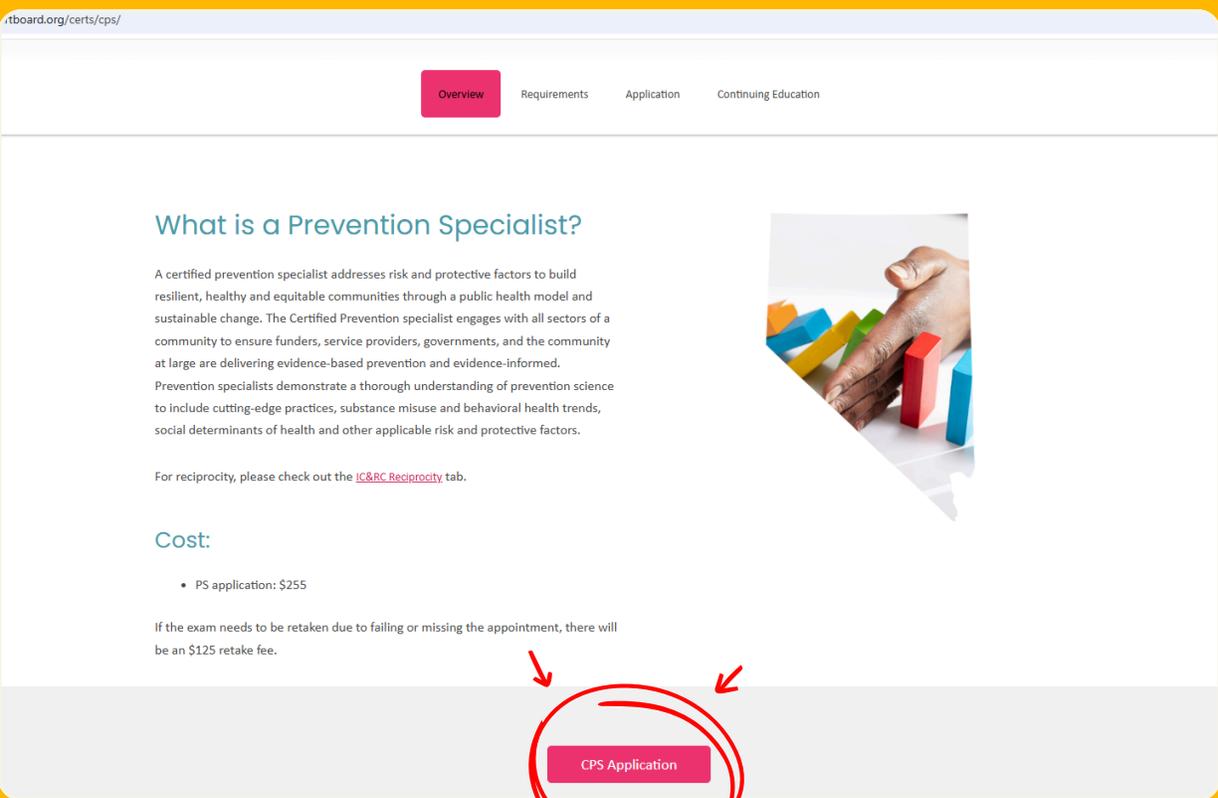
- Professional Credibility** Earning CPS certification demonstrates your expertise and commitment to the field of prevention, increasing recognition among peers, employers, and the community. It signals that you have met rigorous standards and possess the skills necessary to implement effective prevention strategies.
- Career Advancement** Certification opens doors to advanced career opportunities, including leadership roles, program management, and specialized prevention services. It can also enhance job security and professional mobility within Nevada and across IC&RC member boards.
- Standardized Knowledge** The CPS credential reflects mastery of core prevention competencies, including assessment, planning, education, and evaluation. This standardization ensures consistent quality and best practices across programs and settings.
- Reciprocity** Certification allows professionals to transfer their credentials to other IC&RC boards, providing flexibility for employment across state lines and enhancing professional mobility.
- Organizational Benefits** Employing CPS-certified staff strengthens your organization's credibility, demonstrates a commitment to evidence-based prevention, and supports the development of high-quality programs. It can also improve staff retention by offering clear pathways for professional growth.
- Community Impact** Contribute to safer, healthier communities by implementing prevention programs that reduce risk behaviors and promote well-being. They help build public trust in prevention services and foster partnerships between schools, local agencies, and community members.

02

Certification Requirements and Process



This section outlines the process and all the requirements you must complete to earn your certification, including education, training hours, work experience, residency, adherence to the code of ethics, exam completion, and applicable fees. Each requirement is designed to ensure that Prevention Specialist-certified professionals are fully prepared to deliver effective, ethical, and evidence-based prevention services to their communities.



The screenshot shows the website nvcboard.org/certs/cps/. The navigation menu includes 'Overview' (highlighted in pink), 'Requirements', 'Application', and 'Continuing Education'. The main heading is 'What is a Prevention Specialist?'. Below this, there is a paragraph describing the role of a certified prevention specialist. To the right of the text is an image of a hand placing a red block on top of other colored blocks. Below the text, there is a link for reciprocity and a 'Cost:' section listing a '\$255 PS application' fee. At the bottom of the page, a pink button labeled 'CPS Application' is circled in red with four arrows pointing towards it from the corners.

Account Setup

Create an account with the Nevada Certification Board through the platform Certemy. This account will serve as your primary portal for submitting your application, tracking progress, and accessing important updates about your certification status.

*Account setup:

1. Go to the Nevada Certification Board website: nevadacertboard.org
2. Under the menu, go to certifications and click Certified Prevention Specialist
3. Scroll to the bottom and click CPS Application as pictured above

***Please note:** If you only search Certemy in a web browser it will not automatically take you to the Nevada Certemy and you could end up registering for another state.



The following pages will detail each section of the certification application process so you are prepared for submission. Once you register, it is suggested to go through each part of the application to view the submission process and what is asked to complete each requirement.

Personal Information

The first section of your Certemy application will ask for your personal details. This step establishes your applicant profile and ensures the Nevada Certification Board can stay in touch with you throughout the process. Below is a list of the questions you should be prepared to answer:

- First Name, Last Name, Please list all former/other names used, Home Address, Primary Phone
- Date of Birth, Gender, Race
- Employer/Organization Name, Address, Phone, Supervisor Name
- Have you ever received any disciplinary action from another certification or licensing authority?
- What is your highest level of Educational Attainment?
- Which of the following are part of your motivation for applying for Prevention Specialist certification?
- Please share in writing your reasons for pursuing Prevention Specialist certification at this time



The following are statements are what you need to agree to:

- I either live or work in Nevada at least 50% of the time
- I understand that one-half of fee is refundable if application is denied or cancelled prior to the exam - no refund if application is denied or cancelled after exam.
- I understand that my application is open for a period of one year after the date of review. If I fail to fulfill all certification requirements within that year, the application will be closed and no refund will be issued.
- I hereby certify that the information given herein is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. I also authorize any necessary investigation and the release of information relative to my certification. Falsification of any records or documents in my application will nullify this application and will result in denial or revocation of certification.
- I consent to the release of information contained in my application and any other pertinent data submitted to or collected by NCB to officers, members, and staff of the aforementioned Board
- I consent to authorize NCB to gather information from third parties regarding continuing education and employment and understand that such communication shall be treated as confidential
- Allegations of ethical misconduct reported to NCB before, during, or after application for certification is made will be investigated by NCB and could result in the nullification of the application or denial or revocation of certification

Formal Education

Requirement: High school diploma, GED, or HiSET

A foundational level of education ensures you can understand prevention theory, implement programs, and communicate effectively with diverse populations. In Certemy, the application site, you will be asked to submit either your high school diploma, GED certificate, official or unofficial college transcript. Transcripts are only accepted if they clearly state the graduation date.

Experience Hours

Requirement: 2,000 total hours of prevention-related work (approx, 1 year), including 120 supervised hours across prevention domains (education, community outreach, program planning).

Definition of Experience: Hands-on prevention work applying the IC&RC performance domains.

- Examples include: facilitating prevention programs, conducting community outreach, developing materials, coalition work, program evaluation, or policy advocacy.
- Administrative or clerical work does not count toward experience hours.

Supervision Requirement: At least 120 hours of direct supervision, with a minimum of 10 hours in each of the six prevention domains.

- Supervision should be documented by a qualified prevention supervisor (often a current CPS or equivalent).

Training Hours

Requirement: 120 hours of approved prevention training.

- Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs (ATOD) [24 hours]
 - This includes substance related courses, however treatment and recovery classes are not acceptable for this requirement
- Ethics [6 hours]
- SPF Applications for Prevention Specialist Training (SAPST) [24 hours]

These courses provide the essential knowledge to deliver effective prevention services and maintain professional standards. See page 22 for verified training providers

In addition, the remaining 66 hours will need to cover the six IC&RC prevention domains:

1. **Planning and Evaluation:** Needs assessments, data collection, program evaluation, and strategic planning.
2. **Prevention Education and Service Delivery:** Evidence-based programs, health education, community outreach, and skill-building workshops.
3. **Communication:** Public speaking, social marketing, media campaigns, and interpersonal communication.
4. **Community Organization:** Coalition building, mobilization strategies, partnerships, and community readiness.
5. **Public Policy and Environmental Change:** Advocacy, policy development, environmental strategies, and regulatory issues.
6. **Professional Growth & Responsibility:** Ethics, cultural competence, continuing education, and professional conduct.

Documentation: Certificates of completion must be uploaded to your application in Certemy to be counted towards your certification.



Residency Requirement



Requirement: Live or work in Nevada during the certification process. You will have to certify that you live or work in Nevada atleast 50% of the time.

Being locally based ensures that prevention professionals are familiar with Nevada’s unique community needs, available resources, and state-specific regulations. Substance use patterns, cultural factors, and access to services can vary significantly across communities, and having direct ties to Nevada helps you better understand and serve the population.

This requirement also helps maintain the integrity of the certification process by ensuring that certified professionals are invested in Nevada’s prevention workforce and are able to actively contribute to the state’s prevention goals.

Code of Ethics



Requirement: Adhere to the NCB Code of Ethics for Certified Prevention Specialists.

Applicant Responsibility:

- Read the NCB Code of Ethics for Certified Prevention Specialists in its entirety.
- Sign and affirm within your Certemy application that you have read, understood, and agreed to uphold these ethical standards.
- Understand that violations of the Code may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or revocation of certification.

 The full NCB Code of Ethics for Certified Prevention Specialists can be found on the Nevada Certification Board website.

Fees



Requirement: Pay all applicable fees, including exam and renewal fees.

These fees support the administration of the certification program, exam development, and ongoing professional resources for CPS-certified specialists.

Exam Fee: \$255

Renewal Fee: \$100

*These costs do not include 3rd party administrative fees. There is also a cost to retest if the exam is failed, and an extension cost if fees are not paid within the 1-year period of opening the application

Exam Requirement



Requirement: Pass the IC&RC Prevention Specialist Exam.

The exam verifies knowledge and skills across all prevention domains, confirming that certified professionals are prepared to implement evidence-based strategies.

What Counts as Prevention Work

Prevention work includes activities that directly contribute to reducing substance misuse and promoting healthy communities. This can involve program planning, delivering community education sessions, conducting outreach, coordinating events, writing prevention materials, data collection/evaluation, and coalition participation. Administrative work may also count if it directly supports prevention programming. Always connect your experience to the six prevention performance domains (Planning & Evaluation, Prevention Education, Community Organization, Public Policy/Environmental Change, Professional Growth & Responsibility, and Communication). If you're unsure, check with your supervisor or the Nevada Certification Board to confirm your hours qualify.



What to do if your Application is Delayed

The certification process is designed to be completed within one year from the date you begin your application in Certemy. If more than a year passes and you have not finished submitting all requirements (such as training hours, experience verification, or exam completion), your application may be considered expired. The need for extension may cause additional fees to be required.

If this happens:

- Contact the Nevada Certification Board to confirm the status of your application.
- Be prepared to resubmit documents—you may need to re-upload transcripts, training certificates, or supervisor verifications.
- Keep track of your progress by setting reminders for deadlines and maintaining a checklist of completed steps.
- To avoid starting over, plan ahead and make steady progress. Treat the one-year timeframe as a firm deadline for completing all requirements.

What to do once you've paid for your exam



After you pay your exam fee in Certemy, you should receive instructions on how to schedule your test—either online or in person. If you do not receive scheduling details within a reasonable time (typically 1-2 weeks):

- Check your Certemy messages and email inbox (including spam/junk folders) for instructions.
- If you still haven't received scheduling information, email the Nevada Certification Board (NCB) directly to request assistance.
 - Keep a copy of your payment confirmation handy in case it needs to be reverified.
 - Staying proactive will ensure you don't lose valuable time in the certification process.

03

Exam Preparation



About the IC&RC Prevention Specialist Exam

The IC&RC Prevention Specialist Exam assesses your knowledge and competencies across all core prevention domains, including assessment, planning, education, community outreach, and evaluation. The exam is typically multiple-choice and designed to test both theoretical understanding and practical application of prevention strategies. A passing score demonstrates that you are prepared to perform effectively as a Certified Prevention Specialist. Understanding the domains and format ahead of time will help you focus your study efforts.

The exam is structured to assess competencies across six core domains:

1. **Planning and Evaluation – 30%**
2. **Prevention Education and Service Delivery – 15%**
3. **Communication – 15%**
4. **Community Organization – 12%**
5. **Public Policy and Environmental Change – 15%**
6. **Professional Growth and Responsibility – 13%**

These domains encompass the essential tasks and responsibilities that a prevention specialist must be proficient in to effectively contribute to community health initiatives.

The exam comprises 150 multiple-choice questions, of which 125 are scored, and 25 are pretest items. The pretest questions do not affect your score and are included to evaluate their effectiveness for future exams. The scoring scale ranges from 200 to 800, with a passing score set at 500. Importantly, candidates should answer each question, as no points are deducted for incorrect answers.



Exam Format

The IC&RC Prevention Specialist Exam can be taken online or in person.

- **Online Testing:** Applicants may take the exam remotely using a secure, proctored system. A computer with a detachable webcam, stable internet connection, and a quiet testing environment are required.
- **In-Person Testing:** Applicants may schedule to take the exam at an approved testing center in Nevada or another IC&RC jurisdiction.

Both options provide the same exam content, structure, and time limits, ensuring fairness and consistency.

Study Resources

Preparing for the IC&RC Prevention Specialist exam is an important step in the certification process. The right study plan and resources will help you feel confident and ready.

IC&RC Candidate Guide

- The Candidate Guide is the official overview of the exam.
- Includes exam structure, sample questions, scoring, and content areas.
- Download at: <https://internationalcredentialing.org/icrc-credentials/ps/>

IC&RC Prevention Specialist Exam Prep Flashcards

- Interactive flashcards designed to reinforce key concepts for the Prevention Specialist exam.
- Covers terminology, theories, models, and practice questions.
- Download at: <https://quizlet.com/779864508/icrc-prevention-specialist-exam-prep-flash-cards/>

Ohio Practice Exam

- Free online practice exam tailored for IC&RC Prevention Specialist candidates in Ohio.
- Helps assess readiness with sample questions aligned to the official exam content.
- Download at: https://ohio.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cN3QVdkrhXTIdAV

Jeopardy Practice Exam

- A game-style practice resource to help reinforce knowledge for the Prevention Specialist exam.
- Includes strategies for test-taking and sample questions in a Jeopardy format.
- Download at: https://pttcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/S3_PPT-Strategies-for-Taking-the-PS-Exam.pdf

Domain Flashcards

- Flashcards organized by the six IC&RC Prevention domains to support targeted studying.
- Useful for memorizing key concepts, definitions, and domain-specific terminology
- Download at: https://pttcnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/S3_PPT-Strategies-for-Taking-the-PS-Exam.pdf

Rhode Island Study Guide

- Comprehensive guide tailored for candidates pursuing Prevention Specialist certification in Rhode Island.
- Covers exam domains, key concepts, and preparation strategies specific to state requirements.
- Download at: <https://www.riprc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Final-RI-Prevention-Certification-Study-Guide-Revised-January-2024.pdf>

Test-Taking Tips

- ◉ **Start Early and Be Consistent**
 - Give yourself at least 6–8 weeks to prepare.
 - Break your study sessions into manageable chunks (30–60 minutes a day is more effective than cramming).
 - Use a calendar or planner to map out what domain you'll study each week.

- ◉ **Focus on the Six Domains**
 - Organize your notes, flashcards, or study guides by the IC&RC prevention performance domains.
 - Make sure you understand not just the definitions, but how to apply concepts in real-world prevention settings.

- ◉ **Use Active Learning Strategies**
 - Flashcards: Great for memorizing definitions and prevention terminology.
 - Teach back: Try explaining a concept to a friend or colleague — if you can teach it, you understand it.
 - Practice questions: Mimic the exam by timing yourself and reviewing why the right answer is correct.

- ◉ **Study with Others**
 - Form a study group with colleagues preparing for the exam.
 - Discuss tricky topics together and quiz each other.
 - If you don't know other applicants, consider joining prevention networks or online groups for accountability partners.

- ◉ **Simulate Exam Conditions**
 - Practice sitting for a timed test (the CPS exam is multiple choice and timed).
 - Get used to the pace so you don't feel rushed on exam day.
 - Use Multiple Study Formats
 - Don't rely only on reading — mix in audio (webinars, recorded lectures), visuals (charts, diagrams), and practice activities.
 - This strengthens retention and helps you engage different learning styles.

- ◉ **Prioritize Ethics and Core Concepts**
 - Many applicants report that ethics questions are heavily represented on the exam.
 - Be sure you understand confidentiality, cultural competence, and professional boundaries.

- ◉ **Take Care of Yourself**
 - Good sleep, hydration, and exercise can improve focus and memory.
 - Avoid cramming the night before; instead, do a light review and relax so you're clear-headed on exam day.

04

Maintaining Your Credential



Renewal Process

The Nevada Certified Prevention Specialist (CPS) credential is valid for two years from the date it is issued. To maintain your certification, you must complete the renewal process before your expiration date.

- Continuing Education Hours: You are required to complete 40 hours of continuing education during each two-year renewal cycle. At least 3 of these hours must be in prevention-specific ethics training approved by the Nevada Certification Board and 3 hours towards cultural competency.
 - See Section 5: Resources & Tools for recommendations on where to get CEUs
- Renewal Application: Submit your renewal application and documentation of continuing education hours through Certemy.
- Deadlines: It is recommended that you begin preparing for renewal at least 90 days before your certification expiration date to allow time to gather training certificates, complete any remaining hours, and upload documents.
- Late Renewals: If you do not renew on time, your certification may lapse. This could require additional fees, reapplication, or retesting.

Tip: Keep a personal log of all trainings and continuing education you complete throughout the two-year cycle. Upload certificates to Certemy as you go to avoid a last-minute scramble.



05

Resources & Tools



Training Providers & Organizations

To meet certification and renewal requirements, it's important to complete trainings from credible, approved providers. Below are key organizations and resources where you can access prevention-specific education in Nevada and nationwide.

 **Nevada Certification Board (NCB)**



Oversees the credentialing process for Prevention Specialists in Nevada, including application review, exam eligibility, and continuing education requirements.

 **Prevention Technology Transfer Centers (PTTC Network)**



Provides training, technical assistance, and resources aligned with the IC&RC domains to help professionals prepare for certification and enhance prevention practice.

 **SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration)**



Sets national standards and funding priorities for substance use prevention, offering research, guidelines, and strategic frameworks that inform certification content and practice.

 **CADCA**



Offers leadership development, training, and advocacy tools for community coalitions, supporting Prevention Specialists with practical skills and CEU opportunities.

 **CASAT Learning**



Delivers online courses and webinars approved for CEUs, many of which are tailored to the IC&RC Prevention domains and certification prep.

 **Healthknowledge**



Hosts free and low-cost online courses that align with prevention competencies and offer CEUs applicable toward certification renewal

 **Other CEU providers**

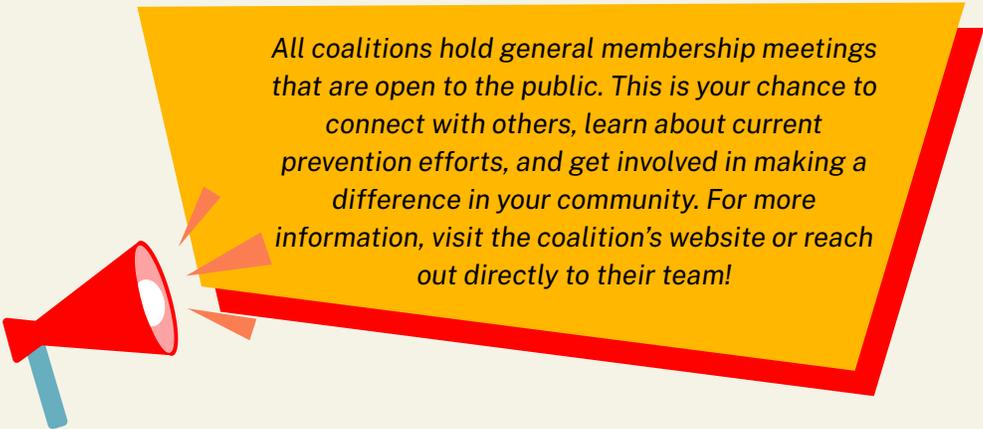
Include universities, nonprofits, and training platforms that offer IC&RC-approved continuing education hours required for initial certification and ongoing renewal.

If unsure, contact NCB to verify approval of CEUs prior to taking the course.

Nevada Prevention Coalitions

Getting involved with your local prevention coalition is one of the best ways to grow as a prevention professional. Coalitions connect you with trainings, volunteer opportunities, and community projects that can count toward your required hours for certification. They also provide mentorship, networking, and real-world insight into the needs of Nevada communities; experience that will make you a stronger applicant and professional. Coalitions are here to support your journey and give you a space to learn, contribute, and lead. Below you'll find contact information for Nevada's prevention coalitions and the areas they serve.

Nevada Statewide Coalition Partnership (NSCP) Statewide	healthienv.org
Care Coalition (CARE) Clark County	carecoalitionnv.org (702) 463-1415
Churchill Community Coalition (CCC) Churchill County	churchill-coalition.com (775) 423-7433
Frontier Communities Coalition (FCC) Pershing, Lander, Humboldt, and Mineral Counties	frontiercommunitycoalition.com (775) 273-2400
Healthy Communities Coalition (HCC) Lyon and Storey Counties	healthycomm.org (775) 246-7550
Join Together Northern Nevada (JTNN) Washoe County	jtnn.org (775) 324-7557
NyE Communities Coalition (NyE) Nye, Esmeralda, and Lincoln Counties	nyecc.org (775) 727-9970
PACE Coalition (PACE) Elko, Eureka, and White Pine Counties	pacecoalition.org (775) 777-3451
PACT Coalition (PACT) Clark County	drugfreelasvegas.org (702) 582-7228
Partnership Carson City (PCC) Carson City	pcccarson.org (775) 841-4730
Partnership Douglas County (PDC) Douglas County	pdcnv.org (775) 782-8611



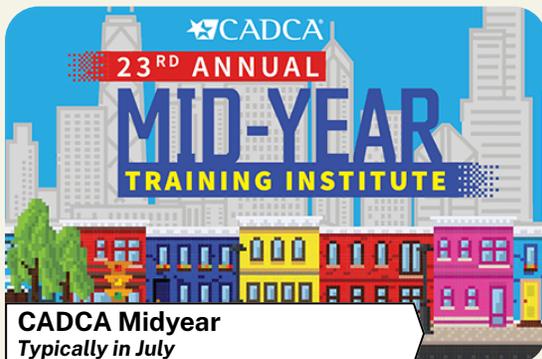
Conferences

These events offer CEUs, showcase cutting-edge prevention strategies, and connect practitioners across disciplines. Below are some of the most impactful conferences in the field:



National Conferences

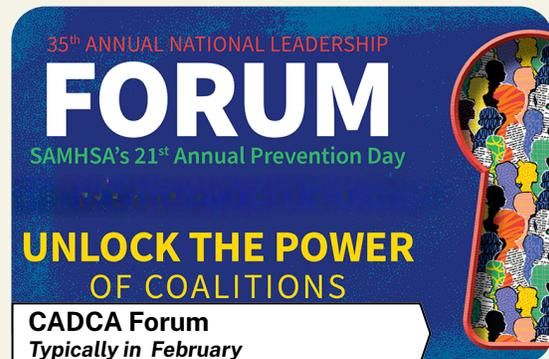
National conferences bring together prevention professionals from across the country, offering cutting-edge research, best practices, and large-scale networking opportunities.



CADCA
23RD ANNUAL
**MID-YEAR
TRAINING INSTITUTE**

CADCA Midyear
Typically in July

A summer training event focused on hands-on, skill-based workshops for coalition members and prevention specialists. Smaller than the Forum but highly interactive and practical.



35TH ANNUAL NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
FORUM
SAMHSA's 21ST Annual Prevention Day
**UNLOCK THE POWER
OF COALITIONS**

CADCA Forum
Typically in February

Held annually in Washington, D.C., this is the premier prevention conference in the U.S. It features advocacy opportunities on Capitol Hill, skill-building sessions, and networking with thousands of prevention professionals.



**Rx and Illicit
Drug Summit**

RX & Illicit Drug Summit
Typically in April

The largest gathering addressing the opioid and drug misuse crisis. Sessions focus on prevention, treatment, enforcement, and recovery, making it a comprehensive look at current national challenges.



THE
MONTANA
SUMMER
INSTITUTE

Montana Summer Institute
Typically in July

A conference dedicated to Positive Community Norms (PCN) and the Science of the Positive. Known for its focus on hope, resilience, and strength-based prevention strategies, it provides a unique lens on prevention work.

Nevada Conferences

Nevada-based conferences provide regionally relevant training and networking with professionals who understand the state's unique needs. These events are convenient, often more affordable, and allow you to connect directly with coalitions and organizations you may work with in your own community.



**RURAL NEVADA
PUBLIC HEALTH
SUMMIT**

HOSTED BY NPHI

Rural Nevada Public Health Summit
Typically in February

A conference designed for public health professionals serving rural communities, highlighting unique challenges, innovative solutions, and collaborative approaches to improve health outcomes in less populated regions.



**Nevada Public Health
Association Conference**
Typically in April

The statewide gathering for public health professionals to share research, policy updates, and best practices to improve population health and address public health challenges across Nevada.



**WASHOE COUNTY
PREVENTION
CONFERENCE
2025**

Washoe Prevention Conference
Typically in May

An annual conference in Washoe County providing education, networking, and resources for professionals working in substance misuse prevention, youth programming, and community wellness initiatives.



**SOUTHERN NEVADA
SUBSTANCE MISUSE
OVERDOSE PREVENTION
SUMMIT**

**Southern Nevada Substance Misuse
and Overdose Prevention Summit**
Typically in August

A regional summit focused on strategies to reduce substance misuse and prevent overdoses, featuring expert speakers, community partnerships, and training sessions for professionals in prevention, treatment, and public health.



**NEVADA
PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION**

**Nevada Primary Care
Association Conference**
Typically in September

Focused on community health centers and primary care providers, this conference emphasizes clinical care, policy updates, and strategies to expand access to high-quality healthcare in Nevada.

Career Pathways

Earning your prevention specialist certification is just the beginning of your professional journey. Ongoing career development allows you to deepen your expertise, expand your impact, and open doors to new opportunities in the prevention field.

Identify Growth Areas

- **Education:** What classes, training, books, articles, webinars, and other formal educational resources can help you build knowledge?
- **Exposure:** Find people who already have the skills or knowledge that you're trying to gain and learn them from. This could be through mentoring, informational interviews, or tapping into your network of close contacts or loose connections.
- **Experience:** Put yourself in positions or situations where you can gain experience in your development areas.

Development and Exposure Opportunities

- **Mentorship-** Gain guidance, career insight, and leadership skills from experienced professionals.
- **Volunteer positions-** Participate in projects or events to build practical experience, enhance your resume, and contribute to community initiatives.
- **Board member-** Serve on an organizational board to develop governance, strategic planning, and decision-making skills while influencing the direction of programs.
- **Fellowships-** Engage in structured learning experiences that provide specialized training, mentorship, and opportunities for professional growth.
- **Committees-** Join committees to collaborate on specific projects or initiatives, expanding expertise in a focused area and building professional connections.
- **Workgroups-** Participate in workgroups to tackle targeted challenges, contribute to solutions, and gain hands-on experience in your field.
- **Conference planning-** Help organize conferences to strengthen project management, event coordination, and teamwork skills while shaping meaningful professional experiences.
- **Grant Reviewer-** Review grant applications to develop critical evaluation skills, deepen understanding of funding priorities, and contribute to advancing programs in your field.
- **Networking-** Connect with colleagues, mentors, and leaders to grow professional relationships and increase awareness of your skills and interests.
- **Presenting-** Share knowledge or research in front of an audience to highlight your expertise and gain recognition in your field.
- **Poster-** Display research or project outcomes to engage attendees visually and generate discussion, increasing professional visibility.
- **Tabling-** Represent your organization or initiative at events to engage with peers, increase exposure, and showcase your work.



Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to explore this handbook and learn more about becoming a Certified Prevention Specialist in Nevada. Your commitment to professional growth and community well-being is what makes prevention work impactful.

By pursuing certification, you are joining a dedicated network of professionals striving to make a difference in the lives of individuals, families, and communities across the state. We hope this guide has provided clarity, guidance, and encouragement as you take the steps toward certification.

Remember, every hour of training, every experience gained, and every ethical decision you make contributes to a safer, healthier Nevada. Thank you for your dedication to this important work.

Best wishes on your journey to becoming a CPS!
