



Tennessee Certification Board

# Certified Prevention Specialist

**An IC&RC Credential for Your  
Career and Your Community**

Today's communities face a myriad of challenges—violence, drug abuse, crime, illness—but those problems, and the long-term damage they can cause, can be prevented, with appropriate education and intervention. Prevention-based programs are taking that message to schools, workplaces, faith-based organizations, and community centers around the world. The success of these programs relies on a competent, well-trained, ethical and professional workforce of Prevention Specialists.

# THE VALUE OF CREDENTIALING

Quality care requires a competent workforce that is well trained, educated, and skilled in providing appropriate services.

It is the position of IC&RC that regulatory and funding agencies, whether on the national or local level, should require prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals be certified in order to ensure services are provided in an appropriate and ethical manner.

## 1. Ensuring the Public's Safety

The most compelling reason to certify professionals is to ensure public safety. Qualified staff is an essential part of quality programs. Government agencies and community-based organizations that adopt and enforce practice standards through the requirement of credentialing assure appropriate and effective service delivery for the recipients of substance use disorder services.

Further, IC&RC credentials establish a strong ethical code among prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals. This protects consumers of services from other forms of professional misconduct, such as misappropriation of funds, misrepresentation of credentials, conflicts of interest, and discrimination. IC&RC requires all certified professionals obtain ethics-specific training and agree to adhere to a code of ethics.

## 2. Enhancing Public Funds Accountability

Ethical practice demands accountability for public expenditures, and accountability dictates that governments and their programs utilize staff who demonstrate proficiency with competency-based standards. This increases the likelihood that public funds spent in service delivery will be used for programming that is research- and evidence-based and that offer reasonable hope of affecting the populations being served in a positive way.

Credentialing aligns practice with the rapid advancements in the field, keeping pace with newly available data. As the professions have grown, training requirements for certification have become more rigorous. Meeting standards for certification insures that practitioners meet competency benchmarks. Substance abuse is so widespread and costly to society, so the credentialing of professionals who work in the field is critically important.

## 3. Providing Practitioner Benefits

Prevention, substance use treatment, and recovery professionals also gain significant benefits by achieving and maintaining a practice credential. Not only are they able to demonstrate practice competencies in their daily work, but they become part of an international cadre of advocates for quality service delivery.

Through the continuing education required for renewal of certification, practitioners are able to maintain their knowledge, skills and abilities while staying abreast of new and emerging trends in the field. Continued skill development often leads to an enhanced career standing and the potential for greater advancement.

# An Internationally Recognized and Reciprocal Credential.

TCB's Prevention Specialist credential is offered through a partnership with the International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC).

# IC&RC

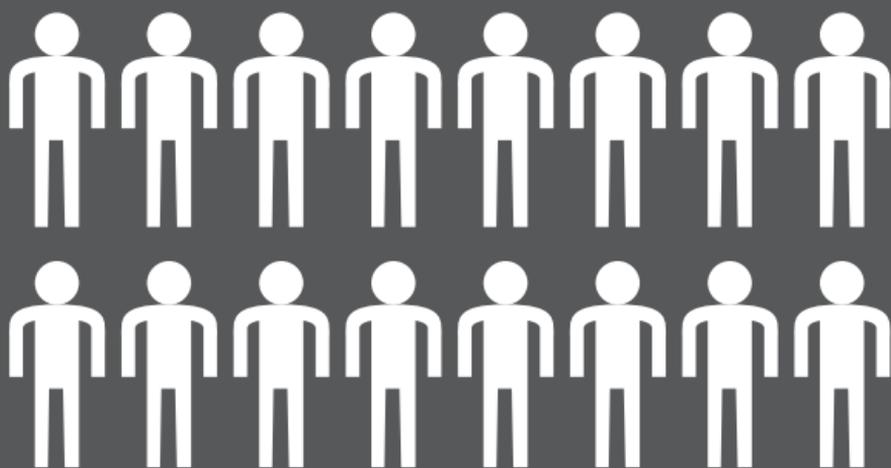
Leading the World in Credentialing  
Prevention, Substance Use Treatment & Recovery Professionals

# PREVENTION AS A PROFESSION

In keeping with its tradition of establishing high-quality practice standards for substance abuse counselors and clinical supervisors, IC&RC provided leadership in developing professional practice standards for Prevention Specialists. This credential is recognized worldwide as the gold standard for competency in the field, and it is written into U.S. state and national practice regulations.

Adopted in 1994, the Prevention Specialist is one of the fastest growing credentials in the field of addiction-related behavioral health care. There are now more than 50 U.S. states, territories, and countries that offer a reciprocal prevention credential. The PS credential requires professionals to demonstrate competency through experience, education, supervision, and the passing of a rigorous examination.

IC&RC's competency-based Prevention Specialist (PS) credential offers a consistent standard of knowledgeable and well-qualified individuals practicing prevention in our communities. Credentialed prevention staff ensures that programs and their funders are delivering on their mission of ensuring public safety and well-being. A thorough understanding of prevention and the latest evidence-based practices is the hallmark of a qualified professional.



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## What's At Stake?

70% of deaths in the U.S. are from chronic diseases—all of which can be attributable to alcohol use, tobacco use, lack of physical exercise, and poor nutrition—and all can be prevented.<sup>9</sup>

In addition, prevention strategies can be effective in preventing and reducing the severity of some mental health conditions, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Further, good prevention strategies can delay onset and support treatment outcomes for those with mental health conditions.<sup>10</sup>

9 "Chronic Diseases and Health Promotion," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, accessed November 30, 2010, <http://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/overview/index.htm>.

10 "Promoting Mental Health & Well Being," Prevention Institute, accessed November 30, 2010, <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/promoting-mental-health-a-well-being.html>



## ABOUT TCB

Founded in 2010, the Tennessee Certification Board (TCB) strives to advance the field of prevention and behavioral health as a viable and effective professional discipline to benefit Tennessee's communities.

TCB's mission is to establish, promote, certify and maintain professional credentials that uphold standards of excellence across various professional fields, including, but not limited to: behavioral health, mental health, substance abuse treatment, recovery and prevention.

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## ABOUT IC&RC

Organized in 1981, IC&RC has a worldwide network of over 50,000 professionals—representing certification and licensing boards in 16 international regions, 48 states and territories, four Native American regions, and all branches of the U.S. military. IC&RC is the global leader in the credentialing of prevention, addiction treatment, and recovery professionals.

Quality and integrity are the foundation of IC&RC's work. IC&RC's credentials use the latest research on evidence-based practices, and they are updated every five years and subjected to an extensive process of peer review. IC&RC examinations are based on formal Job Analyses, written by subject matter experts, and supported by current references. Member boards are audited regularly to ensure compliance with international standards.

[www.internationalcredentialing.org](http://www.internationalcredentialing.org)

# Ready to Become a Certified Prevention Specialist?

Learn how at  
[www.tncertification.org](http://www.tncertification.org)



Department of  
**Mental Health &  
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