

# Announcing New Webinars for Peer-run Organizations:

## Start Fundraising, Aug. 17

## Financial Self-Defense, Sept. 14

Alexandria, VA--The National Consumer Supporter Technical Assistance Center (NCSTAC) will present two new topics in a series of management webinars for consumer-run organizations.

On August 17, non-profit consultant Amy Forsyth-Stephens will explain how small organizations can get started in fundraising. On September 14, tax consultant Michael J. Wood will focus on how to safeguard your organization from costly financial errors.

Each webinar will be held from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. EDT. Attendance is open to members of peer support groups, consumer-run programs and other interested individuals. Pre-registration is advised. Materials from this webinar series will be posted at [www.ncstac.org](http://www.ncstac.org). To register, contact [consumerta@nmha.org](mailto:consumerta@nmha.org) or RSVP on [Facebook](#).

Drop-in centers, peer support groups and other programs run by mental health consumers, like all non-profits, are facing hard times financially. As small, grass-roots programs they are used to operating with limited dollars and generous volunteer support. Yet, the mental health agencies

that traditionally fund these programs are undergoing their own budget cutbacks. To survive and grow, peer-run programs are finding they must learn the art of fundraising—seeking donations from individuals, foundations and businesses.

Amy Forsyth-Stephens will explain how peer-run programs can get started in fundraising in a LiveMeeting webinar on August 17. She will cover the basics of fundraising, from developing a realistic fundraising plan to successfully winning grants and contributions. Grassroots and young organizations will learn the steps to take to prepare to fundraise, how to conduct prospect research, and the art of preparing letters of inquiry, concept papers, and full proposals. Amy has nearly 3 decades of experience as a non-profit executive, grant writer and consultant to health and human service organizations.

As small organizations with citizen board members, peer-run programs must learn how to safeguard and account for money. The job of financial accountability is shared by the staff, officers and board. All must understand the legal and accounting requirements they are expected to follow. In a LiveMeeting webinar on September 14, mental health consumer activist and enrolled tax agent Michael J. Wood will teach financial self-defense for peer-run organizations. He brings an extensive background helping nonprofit organizations with financial and tax matters and is active with Iowa consumer and mental health organizations. He is chief financial officer of Iowa Advocates for Mental Health Recovery.

**Register by e-mail or Facebook**

To receive instructions for attending these webinars, send an e-mail to [consumerta@nmha.org](mailto:consumerta@nmha.org) and indicate which dates you plan to attend. To register on Facebook go to our [Facebook](#) page, click on the Events tab and RSVP to each webinar you want to attend.

You will receive an invitation with a link to the online meeting and a toll-free number. If more than one person will be participating from your site, please let us know how many you expect. Participants will be able to ask questions during the webinars.

Questions? Call 1-866-439-9465. Find us on [Facebook](#) or at [www.ncstac.org](http://www.ncstac.org). Feel free to forward this e-mail. Thank you.

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