



## **Expectations for Participating as a Diabetes Care and Education Specialist Volunteer in a Peer Support Community**

1. Participation is typically on a voluntary basis. It is ok to say “no” or set limits on the scope of an engagement. In some cases, it may be appropriate to negotiate compensation for services.
2. Do not encourage someone to start, stop or change therapy without consulting their licensed medical professional. Always encourage follow-up with diabetes provider/prescribers.
3. Please maintain professionalism and remember all information presented must be evidenced-based. Keep track of your resources used and provide links/copies to the peer support community you are working with.
4. Remember, language matters. You can review the language guidelines from ADCES at [DiabetesEducator.org/Language](https://www.diabeteseducator.org/language).
5. Please use a 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading level for all written materials. Guidelines here:
  - a. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/developmaterials/guidancestandards.html>
  - b. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3049622/>
6. Maintain compassion, empathy and sensitivity. Review the peer support community group/website/social media accounts you plan on working with to understand the audience they serve.
7. Discuss with the peer support community contact days/times convenient for both of you. It is up to you to decide how this fits into your schedule. Many communities function on social media 24 hours a day, so you might receive requests outside of normal working hours.
8. Ask your contact the preferred way of doing any social media posts. Will it be posted under your channel and tag the PSC or sent to the representative to post on their channels?
9. Ensure the disclosure of any conflicts of interest.