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|  | **QUALIFICATIONS****FOR A PEER****TO BE MATCHED****WITH A VOLUNTEER COMPANION** |

Our Senior Peer Program (SPP) Volunteers provide companionship to older adults (Peers) who might benefit from a supportive, caring and companionship relationship. “Companionships” means weekly in-home visits with the Peer, and may include visits to local venues, social events, or entertainment.

Our Volunteers are not therapists, medical professionals, housekeepers, meal preparers, grocery shoppers, transportation for scheduled appointments, or pet caregivers.

The basic qualifications to qualify as a Peer are:

1. Be 60+ years of age.
2. Do not suffer from advanced dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.
3. Do not suffer from Serious Mental Illness that is untreated by a medical professional.

Most of our Peer candidates are referred to the SPP by a family member, friend, neighbor or medical professional.

The process to qualify as a Peer:

1. Initial contact is made by filling out the Peer Application Form by the applicant or referral.
2. The SPP Manager will call the applicant/referral to verify the application information.
3. The SPP Manager and a Polara Health therapist or clinician will conduct a home visit for an in-person interview for final qualification.
4. The successful applicant agrees follow SPP guidelines via their signature on a simple agreement.

Once one qualifies as a Peer, the SPP Manager will match the Peer with a Volunteer based on the Peer’s needs. Both Peer and Volunteer will meet together and decide if they are a match. Either can decide it’s not a match. Another Volunteer will be offered if available.