

PA PARENT AND FAMILY ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Research shows that children who receive support from within their families experience more favorable outcomes than children who receive support without parent involvement. By supporting parents of families, we are supporting children. Parents say that once they work with Parent Alliance, they feel more capable of giving their children the support they need.

Find out how you can bring that support to the families in your community.



PA Parent and Family Alliance



570-832-4834



PAParentAndFamilyAlliance.org

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What is Family Peer Support?

Family Peer Support Services are an array of services and support systems **provided to families raising a child or young adult who is experiencing social, emotional, addiction, or behavioral health challenges in their home, school, community and/or placement.**

Family Peer Support Services are provided by a trained Family Support Partner (FSP) who is **uniquely qualified to work with families based on his/her personal experience parenting a child with similar needs and the specialized training they receive.** This service provides a structured, strength-based relationship between a Family Support Partner and the parent/caregiver for the benefit of the child. The purpose of this service is to support the parent/caregiver and enhance their skills so they can promote positive youth functioning and their child's ability to live successfully in their community.

ABOUT US

The PA Parent and Family Alliance (Parent Alliance) is a state-wide program of Allegheny Family Network (AFN). As one of the nation's largest Family Peer agencies', AFN has been providing Family Peer Support for over a decade (since 2008). In 2018 AFN was named Pennsylvania's Family Support Network through a grant from SAMHSA and began offering services across the state.

MISSION STATEMENT

Supporting parents of children with mental health challenges to be their child's best advocate.

VISION STATEMENT

We envision a world in which every child gets the mental health support they need to thrive.

We Support Families in 3 ways:

- 1** 1:1 Support from a Family Support Partner. This unique resource pairs parents with Family Support Partners—professional resource navigators who share the lived experience of navigating their child’s mental health challenge. Family Support Partners provide intensive, **1:1 support to parents to work through their toughest challenges, for as long as they need it, free of charge.**
- 2** Support Groups. We host weekly online support groups where **parents can connect to share their experiences and advice with one another.**
- 3** Information and Resources. We develop fact sheets, articles, webinars, and trainings to **equip parents with the knowledge they need to navigate their child’s mental health challenge.**

A child’s mental health challenge impacts the entire family. The Parent Alliance understands that in order for a child to thrive, their parents need support, resources, and information.

Want to hear directly from an FSP on how they have helped a family thrive this year? **Listen to our FSP Melissa below!**



What does the evidence say about the benefits of Family Peer Support?


In a recent SAMHSA webinar reviewing the benefits of Family Peer Support the following was identified:

- Provide parents and children with **better understanding of the challenges and resources** associated with children's mental health concerns (Robbins et al 2008)
- Increase the child's early engagement with appropriate health resources (Koroloff , Friesen, Reilly & Rinkin 1996)
- **Reduce the rate of missed appointment and premature terminations from treatment** thereby reducing overall cost by at least \$300 per month compared to teams without a Parent Support Provider (Davis-Groves, Byers, Johnson, McDonald 2011)
- Provide a workforce that is culturally aware of the needs of family members since they have similar experiences and come from the same community (Munson et al 2009)
- Reduced lengths of stay in foster care for children will have a reduction in out of home placements (Marcenko, Brown, DeVoy, & Conway, 2010) (5) (Romanelli et al., 2009)
- Will result in **parents being more than four times as likely to be successfully reunified with their children** than a comparison group without a PSP (Anthony, Berrick, Cohen, & Wilder 2009)
- Children will stay in school rather than drop out (Kutash et al., 2010)

Furthermore, **there is evidence of some benefits to the parents and caregivers**; including a reduction of stress, improved mental health and well-being, increased self efficacy, perceived social supports and increased treatment engagement.

Get all the details here:

<https://nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/Benefits%20of%20Family%20Peer%20Support%20FIC%20SAMSHA%20Updated.pdf>

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What can the Parent Alliance offer your local community?

YOU tell us! **Our services are customized to the unique needs of the families in YOUR county.**

Two of our most popular services are...



Family Support Partners

The Parent Alliance can **hire, train, and manage** local Family/Parent Peer Support partners for your area to provide in person one on one family support.



Support Groups

We can offer local support groups for your county. These services would be local to the area you designate, and cover the topics that matter to it's residents.

and more!

What is the cost?

We work with a **variety of budgets to offer your choice of the follow supports for your local community:**

- Weekly Circle of Parent Support Group recruitment, management, and facilitation.
- Parenting classes for parents raising children with behavior and/or mental health challenges of all ages.
- Part-time FSP's
- Full-time FSP's
- Full team(s) of family support which includes 5 full-time FSP's and 1 full-time supervisor per team.

All positions include local recruitment, hiring, training, supervision, monthly service reports and management including IT and accounting services.

Where do counties find funding to support Family Support Partners?

- County Block grant funding
- Regional BMCO
- Local and regional foundations to fund 1-2 years of a pilot program to build capacity and show efficacy.
- Local Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Drug and Alcohol and Education agencies.

What do you say? Are you ready to help the families who live in your county today? If so, reach out to us here to learn more!