



Statewide Family Network Grants: *Building capacity for family-run organizations*

Report from a Survey of Statewide Family Networks
February 2014

Compiled by
The Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)

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Statewide Family Networks

Initiated in 1993, Statewide Family Networks (SFN) are one of SAMHSA's infrastructure grant programs that help **family-run organizations** build a solid foundation for delivering and sustaining effective mental health services. SFNs build on the work of SAMHSA's Child, Adolescent and Family Branch and the Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI), which focuses on developing systems of care across the nation for children, youth and young adults with serious mental health challenges and their families.

Statewide Family Network grantees are part of a larger movement supported by the **Affordable Care Act**, which aims to coordinate and manage the full spectrum of health care needs of patients. The SFN promotes **family-driven care**, which means that families have a primary decision making role in the care of their own children as well as the policies and procedures governing care for all children with serious emotional disturbances in their community. **SFN grantees provide individual peer support, information and assistance, support groups, trainings, and services to families caring for children with mental health needs.** Responses from 31 currently funded or previously funded SFNs convey several critical points:

- **Statewide Family Networks have been around for a long time:**

More than 20 years	10	6-10 years	1
11- 20 years	16	5 years or less	5

- **In the last fiscal year, Statewide Family Networks supported or trained over 109,000 families and professionals.**

- **Total budgets for the 31 Statewide Family Networks are approximately 27.3 million dollars.**

- 8 Statewide Family Networks have budgets from 1-4 million dollars
- 19 Statewide Family Networks have budgets ranging from \$100,00 - \$999,999 with an average budget of \$536,420.
- 4 Statewide Family Networks have budgets less than \$70,000 and rely solely on SFN grants for funding

- **Statewide Family Networks employed 413 family members in the 31 organizations**



- **SFNs leveraged federal dollars in multiple ways by: states matching funds to support programs; attracting private foundation dollars; and launching new programs that are then sustained through other funding sources.**
- **SFNs emphasized that there were many intangible benefits to being a SFN and that it gave the organization credibility with their own state agencies, as well as a connection to SFNs in other states and to SAMHSA.**
- **SFNs provided the training and opportunities for families to ensure that the voices of families caring for a child with mental health needs are heard at all levels of the system.**
- **Several SFN grantees specifically focus on the needs of ethnic minorities, geographically remote areas and military families.**
- **Statewide Family Networks provide valuable services:**

Table 1. Services provided by Statewide Family Networks

Services	% of SFNs providing the service	Response Count N=31
One-to-one support for families	90.0%	27
Training for families	100.0%	30
Training for child-serving professionals	86.7%	26
Annual conference	60.0%	18
Community events/resource fairs	93.3%	28
Newsletter	66.7%	20
Research	26.7%	8
Early Childhood programs	33.3%	10
Transition-age youth programs	53.3%	16
Youth MOVE	66.7%	20
Family/juvenile court support / advocacy	73.3%	22
Educational support / advocacy	96.7%	29
Child welfare support/advocacy	76.7%	23
Public policy analysis / advocacy	80.0%	24
Support groups	76.7%	23
Social / recreational events	53.3%	16
Respite	10.0%	3
Information & referral	96.7%	29

Table 2. Reasons families contact Statewide Family Networks

Reasons families contact Statewide Family Networks	Response Percent	Response Count
School - suspension or expulsion	53.3%	16
Special education	83.3%	25
Hospitalization	20.0%	6
Residential treatment	46.7%	14
Medication	6.7%	2
Juvenile justice	50.0%	15
Substance abuse	26.7%	8
Child welfare	56.7%	17
LGBT	6.7%	2
Trauma	26.7%	8
Military	10.0%	3
Child abuse	10.0%	3



Early childhood	33.3%	10
Transition-age youth	60.0%	18
Crisis services	23.3%	7
Health care/insurance	30.0%	9

The following pages provide insight into 31 Statewide Family Networks who describe their organizations in their own words:

State	Statewide Family Network
Alabama	Alabama Family Ties
Arkansas	Arkansas Catalyst Consortium
Colorado	Colorado Federation of Families
Delaware	Delaware Family Voices
District of Columbia	Total Family Care Coalition
Florida	The Family Café
Georgia	Georgia Parent Support Network
Idaho	Idaho Federation of Families
Iowa	Iowa Federation of Families
Kansas	Keys for Networking
Kentucky	Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children
Maine	Maine Parent Federation
Maryland	Maryland Coalition of Families
Massachusetts	Parent/Professional Advocacy League
Michigan	Association for Children's Mental Health
Montana	Family Support Network
Nebraska	Nebraska Federation of Families
Nevada	Nevada P.E.P
New Hampshire	Granite State Federation of Families
New Jersey	Mercer County Family Support Organization
New York	Families Together in New York State
North Carolina	North Carolina Families United
North Dakota	North Dakota Federation of Families
Oregon	Oregon Family Support Network
Rhode Island	Parent Support Network of Rhode Island
South Carolina	South Carolina Federation of Families
Tennessee	Tennessee Voices for Children
Texas	Texas Federation of Families
Utah	Utah Allies with Families
Virginia	Virginia Family Network
Wisconsin	Wisconsin Family Ties

This document was prepared by the **Family Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA)**. The report is based on information provided by 31 Statewide Family Networks who responded to an online survey that was distributed in February 2014. Funding for this document was provided through membership dues. For additional information contact:

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Statewide Family Networks



ALABAMA - Alabama Family Ties (AFT)

Year established	1998		
Previously, but not now SFN			
Annual budget	75,000		
Number of employees	1	Number of family members employed	1

Leveraging SFN funds: The fact that Alabama Family Ties was able to obtain federal funding gave our nonprofit credibility and a positive view by other funders.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 250

Services offered:

- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Information & referral
- One-to-one support for families

Alabama Family Ties (AFT) is the ONLY organization that represents children, youth and their families who have mental health needs in Alabama. AFT has representation on a large number of state level committees and is involved in public policy and advocacy. AFT works closely with the state protection and advocacy organization. AFT offers individual and family support and houses the only nationally certified parent support provider currently active in Alabama. AFT staff and volunteers, who are family members of children with emotional and behavioral health issues, help transcend the stigma, discrimination, and fear that prevents families from seeking help and support. The statewide family network programs are a vital support to the consumers across the state. Each child that is able to remain at home, in school and out of trouble saves the state hundreds of thousands in funds.

ARKANSAS - Arkansas Catalyst Consortium

Year established	2011		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$60,000		
Number of employees	3	Number of family members employed	2

Number of families supported/trained last year: 300

Services Offered:

- Information & referral
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs



- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

COLORADO - Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health - Colorado Chapter

Year established	1993		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$300,000		
Number of employees	5	Number of family members employed	5

Leveraging SFN funds: SFN funds help the Federation of Families Colorado to better meet the needs of families with behavioral health issues on a statewide basis. Through this project and funding from other sources we've created a training curriculum for family advocates and family system navigators which could lead to employment opportunities under the Affordable Care Act of 2011. This funding also provides us with a funding source to help sustain the family, child and youth organization, which insures an independent voice at community and state policymaking tables.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 700 Families - 1074 Professionals

Services offered:

- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Early Childhood programs
- Research
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health ~ Colorado Chapter (Colorado Federation) is unique. We are a family-driven and family-run non-profit organization that provides for the "Family Voice" in Colorado's behavioral health care system through advocacy, leadership, technical assistance, and collaboration. We help families of children with mental health issues maneuver through the complicated behavioral health care system in Colorado by providing education, support, advocacy, and promotion of mental health needs of children and families. This is accomplished through a System of Care process, which builds on individual and community strengths, and makes the most of existing resources to help children and their families achieve better outcomes. Over the last two years we've accomplished the following: 1. We have strengthened the role of the Colorado Federation as the lead family-driven organization advocating for Family Driven Care for all Colorado families with children and youth with serious emotional disturbance and co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders. 2. We've expanded and secured a valued place for all individual and organizational family and youth representatives at policymaking tables, as family advocates, peer mentors and as family members and caregivers driving their child's individualized plans. 3. We've designed and developed a tool kit to be used by family and youth organizations to increase business management and leadership skills in order to address organizational expanding and other complex demands throughout the state of Colorado.





Statewide Family Networks

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DELAWARE - Delaware Family Voices, Inc.

Year established	2010		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$250,000		
Number of employees	10	Number of family members employed	8

Leveraging SFN funds: Delaware Family Voices is in the first quarter of the 2nd year of grant funding. We are the only non-profit serving families of children with SED with information, referral and leadership skills.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 300

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Information & referral

Delaware Family Voices has made inroads in less than two years for families of children with SED. We have a dedicated monthly call for parents to call in and ask questions either about their Medicaid coverage for their children or about issues they are having with our state's child mental health system. We have held one conference so far and Senator Coons asked to partner with us and to be a keynote speaker. We also had our secretary of health and Lt. Governor speak at the conference. We are the only conference addressing the needs of families with children with SED. We had over 200 attend. This was both families and providers. The need is there. We have partnered and discussed much needed policy change on various issues with state service systems and their protocol for accepting applications. It has been a big issue in our state. We have been able to establish ourselves as a partner for both the family and with the state and various providers. Our reputation is fairness, think outside the box and a model of parent leadership.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Total Family Care Coalition

Year established	2005		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$365,000		
Number of employees	12	Number of family members employed	4

Number of families supported/trained last year: 254

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Early Childhood programs
- Research
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Total Family Care Coalition (TFCC) provides a comfortable and safe environment for family members to learn about the System of Care and become engaged at the level of their own comfort while also addressing their specific family needs. TFCC staff provides numerous outreach activities to increase mental health awareness while also engaging family members and youth participation in ongoing system of care activities. In fall 2013, TFCC participated in outreach efforts resulting in 28 parents indicating interest in learning more about mental health and working to support the System of Care. The community events included presentations to church groups on mental health stigma and how to access mental health resources and providing information at health fairs and other community events. TFCC participated in a program geared to support youth remaining in school with over 300 students in attendance and 14 indicated interest in further involvement with mental health advocacy activities. TFCC has collaborated with DC Department of Behavioral Health, Court Social Services, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, Child and Family Services Agency, DC Public Schools and other community organizations to develop a group for families with a child currently or previously placed in a psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF). This group provides support, information, and community resources to assist in the successful transition of a youth back to his/her home and community. The first Family Talk meeting was held in September, 2013 with participation by parents of youth in PRTF, family organizations, DC child serving agencies and community organizations. Meetings are scheduled bi-monthly. TFCC held a Family Conference in September 2013 with 70 families, youth and children in attendance. City Council member Tommy Wells, DBH Director Stephen Baron and the DBH Director of Child and Family services, Marie Morilus-Black participated. The focus was on raising awareness of the resources available in the community. In addition, there was a youth track to discuss mental health and what prevents youth from accessing mental health services. This conference served as a preparation for family and youth to participate in the DC Community Conversation on Mental Health to be hosted by Mayor Gray on October 12, 2013.



FLORIDA - The Family Cafe, Inc.

Year established	1998		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$875,252.		
Number of employees	4	Number of family members employed	2

Leveraging SFN funds: Being Florida's Statewide Family Network grantee lends our organization credibility in dealing with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), which is the state's lead agency for children's mental health. DCF works with The Family Cafe by supporting The Annual Family Cafe event, which provides information and training for thousands of families each June. DCF supports that event financially, and also facilitates the participation of DCF staff that share information on agency programs and children's mental health by giving presentations at the event. Additionally, The Family Cafe's status as Florida's SFN has been a factor in dealing with other state agencies that serve families, including the Department of Education and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, as well as private funders such as managed care companies that are invested in serving the children's mental health demographic.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 8,000

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Transition-age youth programs
- Early Childhood programs
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for families

The Family Café's Statewide Family Network has had a significant impact in the State of Florida. It has connected Florida families with critical information and support, enhanced the leadership and advocacy capacity of those it reached, expanded the ranks of stakeholders working in concert to improve the mental health system of care and increased attention to the behavioral health needs of children, youth and young adults. Thanks to The Family Café's standing as a trusted source of information among families, state agencies and other stakeholders in Florida, the organization has been able to reach hundreds of families and provide them with access to resources and information. By leveraging the uniquely powerful platform of its statewide annual event, The Annual Family Café, the organization has been able to infuse mental health into the larger conversation about child health and disability in Florida. It has also successfully engaged youth in discussions of the particular challenges surrounding mental health for the transition age population, both through internal efforts, such as the Youth Track and The Annual Family Café and Florida Youth Council activities including the Annual Youth Summit, and through partnerships with other organizations like MYLIFE and with various state agencies. Finally, the program has increased awareness and leadership capacity in Florida through its social media efforts, its provision of leadership and advocacy training, and through its network of Change Agent Network volunteers throughout the state. The Family Café looks forward building upon its success and deepening the positive impact the Statewide Family Network program has had for children with behavioral health needs and their families in Florida.



GEORGIA - Georgia Parent Support Network, Inc.

Year established	1988		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$1,235,000		
Number of employees	14	Number of family members employed	17

Leveraging SFN funds: It is the only dollars specifically Georgia Parent Support Network receives for Family Support. The state of Georgia provides funding to further the work of the SFN Grant.

Number of families supported/trained last year: Over 600

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Respite
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Georgia Parent Support Network is 25 years old this year. Through the years GPSN has served thousands of Georgia families and youth in many different programs. Currently GPSN provides advocacy and support to approximately 600 families and youth each year, 30 foster care/respite homes to approximately 325 youth a year, a Youth Transition Peer Center which serves 32-50 youth a year, State Chapter of the Federation of Families For Children's Mental Health providing support and encouraging 21 chapters state wide. Additionally GPSN staff and families serves on many state level agency task forces, committees and work groups.



IDAHO - Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFFCMH)

Year established	1998		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$388,000		
Number of employees	11	Number of family members employed	10

Leveraging SFN funds: Idaho Federation of Families is contracted by the state to provide services that complement the SFN grant objectives, as a result we can provide support, education and advocacy opportunities to more families and youth throughout the state

Number of families supported/trained last year: 180

Services offered:

- Educational support / advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Respite
- Information & referral
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFFCMH) is recognized throughout the state as the primary advocate for children's mental health. Through our statewide "peer" network of parents, and our Youth MOVE project, hundreds of families and kids have been empowered to become stronger, better informed advocates for themselves and their families at individual and system levels. Language IFFCMH advocated for has now been added to pending legislation establishing children's mental health committees in all seven regions of the state, a significant step toward the voice of children's mental health being heard. IFFCMH use of technology and social media to connect and provide educational opportunities to families is expanding as webinars and interactive video programs are being made available statewide, as well as monthly support and education groups for parents and youth in all regions. Our recent suicide awareness Bowl a Thon brought over 150 kids together for a fun and educational experience. The stigma associated with mental illness is an on-going battle for families and IFFCMH is leading this fight through community education and awareness programs and projects. Through personal support offered by parents "who are now or have been there", parents find it easier to relate to our family support specialists, and obtain the help they need navigating a vast and confusing system while learning more about how the system operates and how they can help others through personal involvement and system advocacy.



IOWA - Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Year established	1994		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$70,000		
Number of employees	4	Number of family members employed	4

Leveraging SFN funds: It has in the past; right now Iowa is not funding advocacy organizations.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,269

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Support groups
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health is a statewide family advocacy organization focusing on the behavioral, emotional, mental and social health of all children in Iowa. Iowa Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health offers guidance, resources, and direct support to parents, guardians and caregivers of children/adolescents, as well as to adolescents themselves, who may experience social, emotional, behavioral, learning differences or mental health needs. We believe families have a direct role in shaping the system that serves them. We help families gain the confidence they need to become more effective advocates for services and supports that are based on family strengths, as well as respect for cultural values and diversity. Iowa Federation staff and volunteers are themselves parents of children/adolescents who experience social, emotional, behavioral, or mental health needs. We advocate for programs, treatment, and policies that enable families to live in their communities in an environment of stability and respect. Iowa Federation of Families staff and volunteers can: ⇒ Coach families in developing advocacy and negotiation skills ⇒ Assist families in identifying their needs ⇒ Provide parents and youth with information on medication, diagnosis and services ⇒ Empower families to understand and exercise their rights ⇒ Educate community organizations and schools. We understand the struggles & barriers that parents face when accessing services and supports for their children in schools, the "system", and in their own communities because we, too, have children with unique needs. We understand the importance of being able to talk to a non-judgmental person who understands the challenges we face at home, with schools and in the community. We believe children with behavioral, emotional, mental, and/or social challenges and their families can be successful! We believe that families /caregivers are the experts on their children's needs and should be the main decision-makers for their children. We believe that families /caregivers are the experts on their children's needs and should be the main decision-makers for their children.



Year established	1987		
Previously, but not currently SFN grant			
Annual budget	\$450,000		
Number of employees	6	Number of family members employed	6

Leveraging SFN funds: Keys for Networking has had the SAMHSA funded SFN grant since its inception. The grant supports the development of organization infrastructure and agency partnerships that identify and involve Kansas parents and youth in state and community level activities to improve mental health and/or substance abuse prevention services for Kansas youth. These 50+ parents and youth consult with Keys staff to develop the Kids for Keeps training curriculum for parents statewide. They work to advise on the design of training, provide personal experiences to inform the content of the curriculum and review products to assure they respect the culture and values of Kansas families statewide with meaningful and usable information to help them manage children with serious emotional, behavior disorders. This curriculum and the Targeted Parent Assistance model have research demonstrated outcomes that keep children/adolescents home.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 2,500

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Research
- Transition-age youth programs
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Information & referral

With the American Institutes for Research, **Kansas Keys for Networking** completed a multi-year research study with randomized control groups that demonstrated the effect of the Keys developed Targeted Parent Assistance (TPA) program on 3000 justice involved youth returning home from incarceration in state-operated facilities. The study demonstrated the effectiveness of parent to parent, youth to youth support, information, and training: 96% of youth whose parents participated in the TPA program secured and maintained enrollment in insurance so they could pay for post release substance abuse and/or mental health services. 86% of youth remained home with family after release compared to 80% of a matched group of 850 youth whose parents had no contact with Keys. In addition, Keys, in partnership with the Nebraska Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, is replicating Targeted Parent Assistance with the six regional family-run organizations operating throughout Nebraska. In addition, Keys, through a partnership with Kansas Kids @Gear Up and the Kansas Department of Corrections/Juvenile Services operates iGRAD, a program to assist youth in state custody graduate from high school and pursue post-secondary educational opportunities funded by Gear UP. This program will serve 2500 youth in 2014 and is based on the successful Keys, Kansas Department of Children and Families (2007--2011) partnership to assure foster youth graduated from high school. In that program, Keys, in partnership with the state subcontractors (KVC, St Francis, TFI, Youthville) changed the graduation rate of Kansas foster youth from 25% to 85%.



KENTUCKY - Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC)

Year established 1998
Previously, but not currently SFN
Annual budget \$830,000
Number of employees 11 **Number of family members employed** 9

Leveraging SFM funding: The SFN supports the infrastructure of the family organization: an independent board of directors; basic programming for outreach, education and support to families; and Kentucky Youth MOVE. With this base, we are able to expand on current programs within our state to help Kentucky create a family-driven and youth-guided system of care.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 3,000

Services offered:

- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Early Childhood programs
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral

Over the past two years, **Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children, Inc. (KPFC)** along with the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID), created regulations for a service provider position titled Family Peer Support Specialist. Over the past few months, KPFC along with DBHDID also created and passed a regulation for Peer Support Specialist which includes family and youth peer support. In January 2014, Kentucky's Medicaid State Plan Amendment was accepted with expansion of services to include peer support services as a Medicaid billable service. KPFC has worked diligently to help Kentucky move toward this low-cost, highly effective service and continues to work across the Commonwealth to identify and train parent and young adult leaders. As we move forward, we are working to strengthen the infrastructure to include Peer Support Regional Coaches and State-level Coaches.



MAINE - Maine Parent Federation, Inc.

Year established	1984		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$800.00		
Number of employees	10	Number of family members employed	10

Leveraging SFN funds: Yes. Not for the same activities but for activities that broaden the work of our project.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 12,000

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professional
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Educational support / advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Information & referral

Maine Parent Federation's primary focus is on providing support to families across the state. Until recently, all support was in the way of information, referral, training and systemic activities. Based on feedback from families, we started a new program called Family Support Navigators. This program is a shared activity under several of our projects, including the Statewide Family Network grant. The majority of our requests for a navigator come from parents of children with behavioral health needs. Individuals who are trained as family support parents are provided additional training to become Family Support Navigators (FSN). When a request is received for assistance, a FSN is matched with the family based on experience and location. The Family Support Navigator meets with the family to help them develop a family support plan of what help they need. From there they develop a plan to address the needs. Sometimes, the support is only emotional. They may have the skills and knowledge they need to wade through the maze of services but they need someone to check in with for moral support. Sometimes they need help at meetings, interviewing and selecting a provider, sorting through the services to determine what they need or support at an educational meeting. The intent of the program is to help the family through the rough spots and help them gain the skills and knowledge to effectively navigate the systems by themselves in the future. This will be done through educational opportunities and modeling. Without the SFN project funding, the family support navigator program will be in jeopardy of ending as will all the support we provide to families under the SFN project.



MARYLAND - Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health (MCF)

Year established	1999		
Currently SFN funded			
Annual budget	2.1 million		
Number of employees	45	Number of family members employed	43

Leveraging SFN funds: The Statewide Family Network grant has helped to leverage additional federal grants, including two system of care grants and a CHIPRA grant. The grant has been the way in which the Maryland Coalition (MCF) piloted new programs, including the Family Leadership Institute and Transition-age Youth Initiative and Military Navigator program. MCF then secured additional funding to sustain these programs.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,200

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Research
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Educational support / advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Information & referral

The Maryland Coalition of Families for Children's Mental Health (MCF) was established by a group of families in 1999 and is the statewide voice for children's behavioral health. MCF is dedicated to building a family-driven network of information and support and improving services in all systems of care for children, youth and their families from Western Maryland to the Eastern Shore. MCF provides one-to-one support to families caring for a child with mental health needs. MCF provides educational program such as Mental Health First Aid, Navigating the Transition Years, Active Parenting and an annual REACH Retreat for Families and a statewide Connections Conference for families. MCF has developed many programs in partnership with state agencies, providers and universities. These include: A Family Leadership Institute (FLI) to train families to become advocates for their children and children in their communities. Over 350 families have graduated from FLI and have become active in their communities. In partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine, MCF participates in research programs supporting families whose children are taking anti-psychotic medication and supporting families whose children are discharged from a psychiatric hospitalization. Because of the many military facilities in Maryland, MCF has a Military Family Navigator who specializes in supporting military families caring for a child with mental health needs. MCF is a partner with the Mental Health Association of Maryland in conducting a statewide Children's Mental Health Awareness Campaign in May. MCF hosts an annual Day in Annapolis for families to meet with their legislators to educate them on the need for services and support for children and families.



MASSACHUSETTS - Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL)

Year established	1991		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$950,000		
Number of employees	11	Number of family members employed	9

Leveraging SFN funds: The SFN allows PPAL to create a network that is the base for many other activities and often sustained by other dollars. For instance, the SFN dollars allowed us to create a monthly training for family partners which was highly successful. That is now funded by Value Options.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 8,000

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Research
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Information & referral
- Anti-stigma efforts such as Children's Mental Health Awareness Week.

The Parent/Professional Advocacy League has trained, supported and provided technical assistance to both families whose children have mental health needs and those who support them. Parent/Professional Advocacy League (PPAL) has provided training to more than 300 family support specialists who in turn have helped more than 9,000 families access services and gain skills to help their children. PPAL has partnered with the juvenile justice system to provide information and assistance to families who turn to the court to gain services. This new program has been so successful that many juvenile judges have requested it be expanded. As Massachusetts moves to provide support to primary care doctors so they can provide behavioral health services, PPAL has surveyed families and helped develop training and tools to make that care more effective. Last, through its programs for youth, we have helped youth speak at grand rounds, schools and conferences so that they can use their own experiences to improve care.



MICHIGAN - Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH)

Year established	1989		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$1.4 million		
Total number of employees	27	Number of family members employed	25

Number of families supported/trained last year: 21,947 supports to over **700** family members and had 27,564 contacts with community partners in support of families. We trained over 750 family members and more than 500 community partners, hosted recreational or social events for 340 family members, and facilitated support groups for 435 participants.

Leveraging SFN funds: ACMH statewide family network grant helps our organization to leverage additional dollars and resources by supporting us to enhance our infrastructure which allows us to seek out diverse funding, as well as, supporting us to do targeted outreach in areas of the state that we currently do not have a strong presence and make connections to provide supports in new communities. In addition, when we talk with potential funders, the fact that we are the Statewide Family Network for Michigan helps us to demonstrate that we are a recognized, credible family organization with a proven record of providing quality services to families.

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral

The Association for Children's Mental Health (ACMH) plays an important statewide leadership role in empowering families of children with severe mental health challenges by providing individual family-to-family peer support; networking and educational opportunities; promoting public awareness and understanding; supporting family voice and choice, and facilitating the involvement of families and youth in the formation of policy services and supports. Key program accomplishments include: the continued growth of the Parent Support Partner Project, a Medicaid reimbursable parent-to-parent peer-support service; Inclusion of the Family-Driven, Youth-Guided Policy into the state plan; Increased public knowledge about the needs of children and youth with severe mental health challenges and their families; Improved outreach and support to rural areas; Increased local family leadership opportunities, leading to increased family involvement in local system change efforts; Improved relationships and partnerships with local family organizations and key statewide partners; and most importantly the continuous transference of skills and knowledge to families, enabling them to increase their confidence, recognize their expertise, find their voice and increase their ability to advocate at the individual, community, state and federal levels.



MONTANA - Family Support Network

Year established 1989
Previously, but not currently SFN funded
Annual budget \$633,200
Number of employees 16 **Number of family members employed** 7

Number of families supported/trained last year: 280

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Early Childhood programs
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Montana Family Support Network program highlights include: 1. started an annual conference for youth and families with the help of the state's Children's Mental Health Bureau 2. hosted a wellness festival (Well-a-Falooza) in Billings for high school and middle school kids through Youth Move 3. Youth Move worked to coordinate Youth activities and involvement in the 16th Annual March against Drugs and Violence 4. Certified workers in Triple P levels II, III, and IV, an evidenced-based program that teaches parenting strategies for family routines, behavioral issues and developmental issues by instilling knowledge, skills and confidence in parents that enables them to solve current parenting issues and concerns and prevent future problems 5. Partnered with Billings area elementary schools to provide parents with magnets and a rack card outlining the PAL hotline (Parent Ask Line) as a resource for community parents with questions and resources on Triple P parenting strategies and tip sheets 6. Work with over 300 families each year who are at risk for abuse or neglect or families who have a child with mental health and/or behavioral challenges 7. Provide nine 12-week sessions in the evidence-based Nurturing Parenting Program that teaches in areas such as developmental stages of children, empathy, self-care, appropriate discipline techniques, building self-worth and praising, avoiding overindulgence etc 8. Through community support, provided Christmas to over 200 families in need 9. Youth Move worked with school district 2's Young Families program on advocacy, mental health well-being and reducing stigma.



NEBRASKA - Nebraska Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Year established	1999		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	1.9 million		
Number of employees	55	Number of family members employed	55

Leveraging SFN funds: The philosophy of Family Driven Care is always a critical conversation and requires consistent efforts of fidelity. Nebraska Federation of Families' Statewide Family Network grant and the partnership with SAMHSA creates a strong message to our partners in the state of Nebraska. The research, information sharing and the opportunity to stay current with funding opportunities, trends and tools is crucial to what we have accomplished in the past years.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 21,545

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support
- Transition-age youth programs
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

Nebraska Federation of Families Statewide Family Network grant and the partnership with SAMHSA creates a strong message to our partners in the state of Nebraska. The research, information sharing and the opportunity to stay current with trends and tools is crucial to what we have accomplished in the past several years. Creation of LB603 development and implementation of a statewide system, the Family Helpline for children's behavioral health and family navigator/family peer support services to support families experiencing challenges. As of this date we have received over 10,000 calls. The Division of Behavioral Health's recent at risk contract with Magellan Health services of Nebraska, contracted with Key's for Networking to pilot the Targeted Parenting Assistance Program. This made training and utilization of online parent education modules available for all families of children with behavioral health challenges in Nebraska through our family peer support programs. A contract with the Division of Child and Family Services provides Family Peer Support to families in our child welfare system. A partnership with the C.F.S. training team to develop appropriate training for caseworkers and serve as a partner in the trainings. A key member of the development and implementation of a new program "Alternative Response" for early intervention, preventing families unnecessarily being placed on the registry and avoiding families being placed in the system long term. Governor's appointment to the Children's Commission; a high-level leadership body to create a statewide strategic plan for child welfare reform programs and services. Appointed as 1 of the 3 Tri-Chairs of the Systems of Care planning grant, to develop a comprehensive strategic plan to expand and sustain the system of care approach. Development of an online data system to collect data regarding families of children with behavioral health challenges. The Nebraska Federation of Families, the Division of Behavioral Health and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center developing a state Family Peer Support Certification.



Year established 1993
Currently funded SFN
Annual budget 1.1 million
Number of employees 30 **Number of family members employed** 30

Leveraging SFN funding: The SFN is a critical element in improving mental health services for children and their families. This national program designates the SFN in each state, which opens the door for state and county level collaboration. Local resources build upon the mission of the SFN program.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 8,000

Services offered:

- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support group
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Early Childhood programs
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families



NEW HAMPSHIRE - Granite State Federation of Families, Inc.

Year established	1999		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$170,000		
Number of employees	6	Number of family members employed	6

Leveraging SFN funds: Our SFN is written in partnership with our colleagues at state agencies and related non-profits in order to maximize what we as a state can do together to implement our statewide Children's Behavioral Health Plan. The Plan was co-authored between state and non-profit agencies and family and youth stakeholders. Our SFN addresses components of the plan not currently being implemented or funded by other sources, and specifically targets increasing youth and family skills and presence at state and regional policy tables.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 263

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Early Childhood programs
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

The Granite State Federation of Families (GSFFCMH) is a lead partner in all children's behavioral health policy and planning work in the State of New Hampshire. As a leadership team member of our state's System of Care initiative, Safe Schools Healthy Students Initiative, and Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative, the GSFFCMH provides family perspective and experience based expertise in all efforts to transform our children's behavioral health system into one that is streamlined, accountable, and effective and is based in an understanding of the realities our youth and families deal with daily. Families and youth supported by the GSFFCMH understand better than anyone which supports and services are most cost and outcome effective and are a vital force in transformation efforts. In addition, we provide vital family to family and youth to youth information, training, and support services to our peers who struggle to navigate the costly and complex systems that serve them. We serve as co-lead, with the UNH Institute on Disability, in the development and implementation of the NH Children's Behavioral Health Training Network as well as providing direct training and mentorship to professional staff working with our youth and families. New Hampshire has been recognized by staff within SAMHSA as having a particularly effective collaborative approach to systems transformation work and to leveraging resources through partnership among public and private child serving agencies, and the GSFFCMH is proud to be a leader in that work.

Annual Conferences are co-sponsored between the GSFFCMH and include youth tracks at the APEX Dropout Prevention Conference, the NH Summit on Transition, the Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative Summit.



NEW JERSEY - Mercer County Family Support Organization

Year established	2009		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$673,814		
Number of employees	13	Number of family members employed	11

Leveraging SFN funding: Not currently but in the future we anticipate that the grant will enable us to develop programs that can be self-sustained by drawing in additional funding.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 5,040

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

As a partner in New Jersey's Division of Children's System of Care (DCSOC), **Mercer County Family Support Organization** provides support, education, and advocacy for families whose children have emotional, behavioral, or mental health challenges. We provide one-to-one peer support to caregivers whose children are engaged with care management, run a warm line for referrals and resources, provide support groups and workshops to the community, run a youth advocacy group and provide advocacy at the community level in schools, stakeholders' meetings, juvenile justice systems, and child welfare. As a member of the New Jersey Alliance of Family Support Organizations, we provide advocacy at policy levels. Through individual advocacy, thousands of children are receiving appropriate services in schools, in juvenile justice programs, in child welfare, and in the DCSOC. Through stakeholders meetings, we advocate for families based on their needs which have included: working with Disability Rights NJ to insure translation of documents and meetings when families are engaged with Special Education teams, insuring a child's challenges are considered when engaged with youth sexual offender programs through attention to their Individual Education Plans, connecting schools with appropriate resources i.e. the need for Traumatic Loss Services and trauma intervention in Trenton as a result of the homicide rate which has escalated this past year. The Leadership Academy is another program which helps us develop the leadership and advocacy skills of family members and youth so advocacy can be expanded in our community. Mercer County Family Support insures that the family voice is heard so systems can be "family friendly" and better serve their community.



NEW YORK - Families Together in New York State, Inc.

Year established	1996		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	3.6 million		
Number of employees	42	Number of family members employed	40

Leveraging SFN funds: The SFN grant helps support our Chapter development and our Annual Conference, both of which serve as outreach and education for our Family Support Leaders across NYS, and also provide opportunities for fund raising.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,600

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families

Families Together in New York State works at the State level with policy makers to provide the family voice in the work they do that will affect our families. As we shift to Medicaid Managed Care, we participated in the design and implementation of our framework that will ultimately save money as services like Family Support and Respite are included in the plan. Our input into the development was especially valuable as we can speak with authority about what families need and want that will keep our children out of expensive hospitalizations, emergency rooms and residential facilities. Ensuring that these types of services are included in the Essential Benefits Packages of the Exchange under ACA will also result in significant savings and better outcomes. We are conducting trainings and credentials for our workforce for these types of services so they can be delivered with quality and with good outcome measures.



NORTH CAROLINA – North Carolina Families United (NCFU)

Year established	1996		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$830,000		
Number of employees	14	Number of family members employed	13

Leveraging SFN funds: Because North Carolina Families United is the statewide family network (SFN), NCFU is asked to give family-driven voice in each of the current and past SOC grants. In doing so, NCFU is also included in the budgets of the SOC grants. The money from the SFN and deliverables attached, direct NCFU to sit at policy making committees and boards at the state, county and local levels. This gives NCFU the recognition to be at the table when pursuing contracts and grants for services for family and children. The SFN funding has allowed us to expand those funds to obtain Mental Health Block grant funding .The SFN grants afford NCFU the stability and recognition to further develop and serve the citizens of NC.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,300families - 700 professionals

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Research
- Early Childhood programs
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Information & referral

In the past two years, **North Carolina Families United** has served over 1,300 families by providing trainings and direct one on one support, trained 700 professionals, and helped the state transition Mental Healthcare to Managed Care Organizations without losing the System of Care values and principles and family and youth voice. Each May, NCFU organizes statewide campaigns to reduce stigma and shame for families and individuals struggling with mental health issues. Each May, approximately 50,000 NC Citizens are somehow touched by our Children's Mental Health awareness campaigns and celebrations. NC Families United has expanded and standardized the development of Family Partners (Parent peer support Providers) in the state of NC. NCFU has grown the FP resources from 6 known FP to 390 FP throughout the state. They have provided FP professional development services and developed a comprehensive training program to support and develop FP so they can be nationally certified and most importantly serve families, youth and children throughout the state of NC. NCFU has developed a comprehensive early childhood, infant mental health support through the development and training of FP specializing in the young child and trauma. We have youth/transition aged programs and are proud to have a large active YouthMove NC chapter. We provide and train youth and emerging adults in Youth Leadership. NCFU uses the RENEW model for transition services for NCFU youth referred and have pushed this model to the forefront of the state. We train other youth serving professionals how to use the best practice model all over the state. We have helped to develop policies that support and recognize Family-Driven and Youth-Guided care.



NORTH DAKOTA - North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Year established	1994		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$207,000		
Number of employees	3	Number of family members employed	3

Leveraging SFN funds: ND Federation of Families has utilized our funding to leverage additional dollars. We have a grant from a foundation that wanted to see state and federal as well as local support of our program.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 865

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Newsletter
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families

North Dakota Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NDFFCMH)

Statewide Family Network program has provided parent to parent support to families of children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health disorders. The Parent to Parent support has helped families access needed services for their children and youth. Parents have become empowered to engage with service providers and have become advocates for their children as well as advocating for a more responsive system. NDFFCMH Statewide Family Network program assisted children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health disorders and their family members throughout North Dakota by working with policy makers and service providers to improve services for children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental disorders and their families. Families worked on the expansion of services to children with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Youth planned and led a youth leadership conference for youth that promoted advocacy skills to transitional age youth. Families are working with policymakers by providing input regarding the mental health needs of children and youth in ND to the ND Interim Legislative Committee studying behavioral health. NDFFCMH Statewide Family Network ensured that children, youth and families are the catalyst for transformation of mental health and related systems in North Dakota by strengthening coalitions among children, youth and family members and between children, youth and family members, policymakers and service providers by recognizing that children, youth and family members are the best and most effective change agents.



OREGON - Oregon Family Support Network

Year established	1993		
Previously, but not currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$1.8 million		
Number of employees	20	Number of family members employed	18

Leveraging SFN funds: With the SFN, Oregon Family Support Network has been able to secure additional funding for special projects which OFSN would not be able to pursue otherwise. As an example, OFSN received additional funding from the state to pursue Board Development activities, including the development of a 3 year Strategic Plan, which the organization had not done in many years. Additionally, the state provided some additional funding to support a significant organizational change process as the result of a small grant we received from State Family Consumer Networks. The total additional funding that was leveraged was equal to 50% of the overall costs. OFSN would not have been able to complete these projects without support of the SFN funds.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,400

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Respite
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Transition-age youth programs
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families
- Enhancing data collection process so that it can have a strong presence/participant in research related activities

The Oregon Family Support Network has been actively involved in serving families over the past few years through: -Aligning Services and Supports with the goals of Affordable Health Care Act - Providing training/support for families to enter the workforce as peer support specialists - Developed a Certified Training Program to assure that peer support specialists are ready to enter the new workforce with an extensive set of skills and the ability to bill Medicaid for services provided - Participate on State and local level advisory committees and task forces to assure health care reform planning, service delivery, and evaluation is relevant and meaningful to the families and youth being served in Oregon's behavioral health systems - Developed Coach/Supervisor Curricula and Training using the National Federation of Families PSP Certification Standards to assure a strong practice model for family peer support services in Oregon -Development of Evaluation Tool to demonstrate overall effectiveness of one-one family peer support services in Oregon - to align with outcomes measurement goals identified in Oregon's Healthcare Transformation -Development of goals and strategies to create a consistent array of family peer support services around the state, including: Support Groups, Respite Nights, Social Activities, Advocacy Training, One-One Family Peer Support, Coaching/Supervision, and Systems Navigation.



RHODE ISLAND - Parent Support Network of Rhode Island

Year established	1986		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$900,000		
Number of employees	13	Number of family members employed	13

Leveraging SFN funds: Rhode Island is able to recruit and train family and youth leaders to have meaningful involvement in shaping the System of Care; policies, practices, services, and supports, that are designed to meet the needs of children/youth at risk for or who have serious emotional, behavioral and/or mental health challenges and their family. PSN is further supported from two state contracts to continually build, strengthen and sustain family and youth leadership, and peer to peer support.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 1,000

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Annual conference
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families
- Facebook Page and website

The SFN grant program has enabled the **Parent Support Network of Rhode Island** to develop, and implement our Peer Mentor Program that provides a toll free helpline for families in need of support, information, and referral. This is always staffed by another parent who has lived experience raising a child with serious mental health challenges. Families calling in have access to emotional support, resources, and help with navigating the complexity of service systems for their child (Education, Mental Health, Juvenile Justice, Child Welfare, Social Services, Health etc.) We also train volunteers who are also parents interested in helping other parents which serves to strengthen the capacity of our Statewide Family Network. This program is sometimes the only life line for families who are often very isolated due to the needs of their child/youth. We also host ongoing social events that bring hundreds of children and their families together which builds a natural support community that families can continue to rely on for both giving and receiving support. Parent Support Network has successfully developed and implemented several training curriculums including peer to peer support and family/youth leadership. This has served to strengthen our programs internally and also continues to have a significant impact on how services, supports, policies and practices are designed and delivered within a System of Care context. The impact on our state has been the knowledgeable and empowered parents and young adults with lived experience who are participating on local and state level policy and decision making bodies that directly impact the children's behavioral health population.



SOUTH CAROLINA - Federation of Families of South Carolina

Year established	2001		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$265,000		
Number of employees	6	Number of family members employed	5

Leveraging SFN funds: The fact that we have a federal grant from SAMHSA carries some clout.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 3,250

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Research
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support /advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral

Over the last five years, the **Federation of Families of South Carolina** has advocated for the services of parent peer support providers, a service that has proven to be beneficial in other states, and when in place helps save placement and treatment dollars. Over the last year great progress has been made in developing a statewide system of care. FFSC has been very involved and instrumental in providing family and youth to participate as well as educating families and professionals about family-driven care and the guiding principles as well as youth guided services. We have participated in projects involved with implementing best practice Positive Behavior Intervention and Support programs in schools, participating in projects providing early intervention services for youth at risk of entering the juvenile justice system, substance abuse programs and training parents to become parent support volunteers, developing parent and youth support networks and parent and youth leadership training.



TENNESSEE - Tennessee Voices for Children (TVC)

Year established **1990**
Currently funded SFN
Annual budget **\$3.7 million**

Number of employees **50** **Number of family members employed** **22**

Leveraging SFN funding: The SFN funding (\$70k) that TVC received through SAMHSA is a critical component in leveraging ongoing funding from the TN Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (\$330k for the Statewide Family Support Network) and other funding sources. In conducting the outreach, education and support activities through the SFN, TVC has been able to develop opportunities for funding through TennCare/Managed Care Organizations for family support services, through TDMHSAS for family support services in the juvenile court system, support for the development of a statewide Youth MOVE chapter and individual Youth MOVE Councils, and through a variety of organizations and systems for training and technical assistance services offered by TVC.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 7,779

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Early Childhood programs
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral
- Bi-Annual Conference

SFN is the lifeline for TN families to find support, referral, and programs that will aid in strengthening the families ability to support their child's needs in the home and ultimately avoid out of home placement of a child. Without SFN, referral, youth support, parent support, outreach, and assistance cannot affect change in our communities moving us away from crisis based interventions to prevention and early intervention.



TEXAS - Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Year established: 1998
Currently funded SFN
Annual budget \$70,000
Number of employees 2 **Number of family members employed** 2

Leveraging SFN funds: Through the SFN grant Texas Federation of Families is provided in-kind support through donated office, total access to all office equipment (copier, scanner, etc). Use of 16 passenger van for Youth MOVE through community mental health, and a music venue donated that hosts 2500 patrons.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 612

Services offered:

- Information & referral
- Social / recreational events
- Support groups
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Youth MOVE
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Training for families
- One-to-one support for families
- Training youth to exercise their voice through testimony and written letters

Texas Federation of Families takes a leadership role during Children's Mental Health Awareness day by hosting a music fest with over 35 Texas Music singer songwriters. Through the voices of TXFFCMH and Alamo Area Youth MOVE, we have been present with planning and development of the statewide SOC grant. In 2013 we provided a legislator of the year award to a state representative who listened to the youth and walked a very important bill through the house and the senate.



UTAH - Allies with Families

Year established	1991		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$450,000		
Number of employees	22	Number of family members employed	20

Leveraging SFN funds: SFN funding has allowed Allies to have some influence at the State level in policy decisions making way for other contracts serving children and their families.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 2,500

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Early Childhood programs
- Transition-age youth programs
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Information & referral
- Peer to peer support specialists Wraparound Facilitation

Utah Allies with Families provides a 6-week wellness education program, Operation Families Together. OFT has 4 separate programs: From Hope to Recovery for parents and caregivers; Sibshops for siblings; Kid Power for the identified child; and, Childcare for the real young children. The FHTR program provides information on mental health diagnoses, wellness ideas for helping with the impact on the family, and support for individual needs. This program has helped families become better partners in their children's care and helped to reduce stigma with their informal supports and community. Last year Allies provided this program to 250 families and youth. In addition, training was provided regarding the impact of mental illness on the family to 200 professionals, paraprofessionals, and social work students. Allies has participated with a coalition of family run organizations to build a peer-to-peer support program. We have written a curriculum to train Family Resource Facilitators and provided that training in the state for 7 years. We started 7 years ago with 13 FRFs located in the mental health centers statewide. Currently we have 42 FRFs that are located in many of the child-serving agencies, as well as some public-private partnerships. The curriculum, training, supervision and mentoring model has been accepted by Medicaid and the FRFs are able to bill Medicaid for their peer-to-peer services. Last year our FRFs provided individual services and wraparound to 1,812 families helping them to keep their kids in their own homes, and out of high cost out of home placements; in school with appropriate services to help them achieve or stay on grade level; and, out of legal trouble either with the school or juvenile justice.



VIRGINIA - Virginia Family Network

Year established	2011		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$176,000		
Number of employees	3	Number of family members employed	3

Leveraging SFN funds: The SFN grant is a huge help to our capacity. Without it, we would not be able to support many of our efforts. For example, our state funding, while we greatly appreciate it, is not enough to reach and support families and youth on a statewide basis. Previous funding levels only allowed for us to reach parts of the state. In addition, we would not be able to support current staff levels without the SFN funding, which, again, greatly affects our capacity.

Number of families supported/trained last year: 400

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Newsletter
- Transition-age youth programs
- Youth MOVE
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral

As a program of NAMI Virginia, the **Virginia Family Network** was launched in 2011 with the goal of creating a statewide network of families committed to providing opportunities that support, educate, and empower other families with children and youth with mental health needs while also promoting family driven and youth guided policy throughout the child serving systems. The initiative is designed to “meet the family where they are” through activities such as providing support groups, training, resources, and mentorship from other families with children and youth with mental health needs. Compared to other states, Virginia has not had a strong statewide network for families. As a result, we have essentially had to build our network from scratch, including recruiting parents, building parent support groups, developing curricula and trainings and hiring staff. We are incredibly proud of how far we have come in a short period of time. Some of our accomplishments include: -Hosting a statewide conference for families, youth, and professionals on family driven and youth guided policy. -Developing a parent leadership training and a youth leadership training. -Developing a training that teaches parents skills related to advocating for their child. -Launching a Statewide Youth Network, this includes recruiting and training young adults with personal experience to lead youth groups in their communities. We have one group thus far. -Recruiting a cadre of parent leaders who help with a number of initiatives, including providing individual parent support, providing feedback on policy issues, training other families, serving as parent representatives on local committees, and leading parent support groups.



WISCONSIN - Wisconsin Family Ties (WFT)

Year Established	1987		
Currently funded SFN			
Annual budget	\$650,000		
Number of employees	16	Number of family members employed	14

Number of families supported/trained last year: 800

Services offered:

- One-to-one support for families
- Training for families
- Training for child-serving professionals
- Annual conference
- Informational exhibits at community events, resource fairs / conferences
- Research
- Family/juvenile court support / advocacy
- Educational support / advocacy
- Child welfare support/advocacy
- Public policy analysis / advocacy
- Support groups
- Social / recreational events
- Information & referral

Wisconsin Family Ties has been successful at keeping kids at home and in school. In the past two years, WFT reversed school suspensions and expulsions, reunited families separated by out-of-home placements of their child/children, helped families navigate complex service systems and connect with needed services/providers, found housing for homeless families and helped them furnish their new homes, supported families through child protective services investigations and various court proceedings, and collaborated with juvenile corrections to implement trauma-informed care at the state's juvenile corrections facilities and pilot the use of parent peer support with families of incarcerated youth. In our most recent evaluation survey, families reported the following improvements after receiving services from WFT • 100% felt more capable of dealing with the various systems serving their child • 84% felt more able to cope with their family situation • 97% reported having more information regarding their child's diagnosis, treatment options and available community programs • 86% felt more hopeful about the future • 84% believe WFT helped them become better advocates for their children • 88% reported they now know the steps to take when they are concerned about the services their children are or are not receiving • 97% feel they now have somewhere to turn when they need information & support. WFT was instrumental in several advances for children's mental health. A six-year advocacy effort culminated in Wisconsin's first-ever legislation regulating the use of seclusion and restraint in public schools. We were the sole organization that got the state to establish the Office of Children's Mental Health; previously, there was no organizational unit with such a focus. WFT was instrumental in getting the state to expand Coordinated Services Teams, the state's children's wraparound initiative, to all 72 counties and 11 tribes. Finally, we played a key role in influencing state budget initiatives related to mental health, which resulted in an unprecedented \$29 million increase in mental health funding during the 2013-15 biennium. WFT also continued to train families and child-serving professionals on effective ways to work with children who have behavioral challenges. We developed a curriculum, "Trauma-free Crisis Intervention," and are teaching people throughout the state a new way to work with kids without using punitive consequences or going hands-on. We also developed a conceptual framework for engaging parents that is helping schools connect with families that have historically been hard to reach.





ABOUT FREDLA

The Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association (FREDLA) is a dynamic, new association to support those in leadership roles of family run organizations. FREDLA's mission is to: *Empower and strengthen executive leaders of family-run organizations focused on the wellbeing of children and youth with mental health, emotional or behavioral challenges and their families.*

Each core member of FREDLA is the executive director of a state or local family-run organization. While many family-run organizations are funded through a SAMHSA Statewide Family Network grant or System of Care grant, this is not a requirement for FREDLA membership.

FREDLA is a partner in the Technical Assistance Network providing technical assistance and consultation for family-run organizations to: strengthen family leadership, build organizational capacity, and work with system of care communities and agencies to foster the true meaning of a family-driven system of care. Technical Assistance and consultation is provided through a peer-to-peer model by experienced Executive Directors from local and state family-run organizations. Technical Assistance and consultation is tailored to the unique needs of the individual state and local communities and incorporates the cultural values and beliefs of families.

FREDLA offers a range of programs to build leadership and organizational capacity including:

- A network of peers to call upon for resources and expertise
- A one-day Leadership Camp for directors and emerging leaders of family and youth run organizations
- Webinars tailored to the unique needs of family-run organizations in a changing health care climate. Topics include: Certification Options for Family/Parent Support providers; Accreditation for Family-Run Organizations; and Family-Run Organizations Becoming Medicaid Providers
- Workshops on “Models of Family-Run Organizations: One Size Does Not Fit All” and “The Affordable Care Act: What Families and Family Run Organizations Need to Know”

To learn more about FREDLA and become a member, visit FREDLA's website at www.fredla.org for membership information and additional resources.

Family-Run Executive Director Leadership Association
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Statewide Family Networks

