

Parent Partner Programs Offer Hope and Support for Families

A positive and vital resource for parents working to reunify with their children

from
parents

for
parents

All parents deserve the opportunity to connect with a Parent Partner

What is a Parent Partner Program? A parent partner program is recognized as a vital approach for supporting parents in navigating the complex child welfare system. This program hires or contracts with 'parent partners' who are parents who have previously experienced the child welfare system and wish to support parents who are newly involved with the system. The goal of a parent partner program is to engage parents more fully in their case planning, provide needed information to help navigate the child welfare system and support parents in working to reunify with their children. Parent partners work collaboratively with caseworkers to help ensure parents have access to a wide range of services that are respectful of cultural, ethnic and other community characteristics.

What are the Benefits of a Parent Partner?

A parent partner is a valuable resource and support in:

- Helping parents navigate the child welfare and court systems
- Instilling hope that parents can achieve a positive outcome for their families
- Helping parents access community resources and services
- Supporting parents in developing relationships with caseworkers, service providers, and court personnel
- Helping parents develop their confidence to advocate for themselves and their child(ren)
- Supporting parents in developing and practicing new parenting skills and healthy behaviors
- Assisting parents in learning to manage crises

What Does the Evidence Show?

- Higher rates of reunification for those parents who have participated
- Lower rates of reentry for children involved in the child welfare system
- Increased participation in services and court hearings*

*Parent Partner Programs can result in tremendous cost savings. It is reported, that child abuse prevention and intervention programs can be very cost-effective, yielding up to \$20 per every \$1 invested in services. In conclusion, the Parent Partner Program is not only a proven strategy in strengthening families, the program can build a stronger community and ultimately save taxpayer dollars.***

“During my time in services having a family partner was a lifesaver. Having someone that I felt was there for me, was lifechanging! It gave me the will and strength to want to be better.”

—California Parent

Being able to link parents with others who have similar experiences has been a gamechanger for our agency and the families we serve. The engagement and commitment I've seen from our Parent Partners and the parents they serve is truly a special relationship. This program has given us a great new tool in our toolbox to be able to support families - and it's given hope for so many parents!

—Emily Green, Franklin County Children Services,
Program Administrator in Columbus, OH

The Parent Partner Program is very unique because parents are mentored by Parent Partners that have had the Department in their life at one point and have continued to show strength and growth. Having a Parent Partner by your side during difficult times, as well as good times, is a great way of having the support you need that others may not understand or have the "life experience" that we have. Helping someone navigate through their case and having the understanding of struggles is what we strive for. I love this program and what it stands for!

—Stacy Zachmeyer, Former Parent Partner
Iowa Parent Partner Program

Help us move our mission to educate states and communities about the benefits of Parent Partner Programs

* Casey Family Programs (2019). *How do parent partner programs instill hope and support prevention and reunification?* Retrieved from: <https://www.casey.org/parent-partner-program/>

** Casey Family Programs (2019). *Transforming Child Welfare Systems. What do we know about the return on investment in preventing child maltreatment?* Retrieved from: https://caseyfamilypro-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/media/TS_Research-return-on-investment-maltreatment-prevention.pdf