
What is a Family Peer Advocate?

A New York State Credentialed Family Peer Advocate (FPA) delivers Family Peer Support Services for families whose children have been involved in many systems including mental health, addiction, special education, juvenile justice, and child welfare.

Family Peer Advocates have lived experience as a parent or primary caregiver who has navigated these multiple child serving systems on behalf of their child(ren).

Families Together administers the New York State Family Peer Advocate Credential. The establishment of the FPA Credential recognizes the importance of family-to-family support.

The intent of this credentialing process is to formally recognize the expertise of Family Peer Advocates, to ensure all advocates demonstrate core competencies, to expand reimbursement possibilities, and to provide opportunities for professional growth and collaboration.

Our credentialed Family Peer Advocates will stand by your side to support your child's best interests!

Learn more at
<https://www.ftnys.org/workforce/family-peer-advocate-credential/>

Family Peer Advocacy Services are provided for Tompkins County residents by the Mental Health Association in Tompkins County, Inc.

Business hours:
Monday - Friday, 9 AM - 3 PM

Location:
The Center Ithaca Building
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Family Peer Support Services



Mental Health Association
in Tompkins County

What is Family Peer Support Programming?

Family Peer Support Services are an array of services and supports provided to families raising a child or young adult up to age 21 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 and credentialed Family Peer Advocate (FPA) 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 can be provided through individual, group or other settings that fits a families needs.

This service provides a structured, strength-based relationship between a credentialed Family Peer Advocate and the parent/caregiver for the benefit of the child/youth.

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.

What Does a Family Peer Advocate Do?

Assist you in implementing an individualized family support plan.

Provide information that is useful regarding various child-serving systems.

Empower you to better advocate for your child's needs.

Take into account your family's values and culture in creating a plan of action.

Listen to your ideas about what you believe is best for your child.

Help you to strengthen the family unit.

Help you to build skills within the family for the benefit of your child.

Promote empowerment within the family.

Help you to increase overall supports in the child's environment.

Stand with you at school meetings, treatment meetings or court hearings.

Provide opportunities for families to connect to and support one another.

There are six categories of Family Peer Support Services. A Family Peer Support Provider has the capacity to offer all six categories of services based on the individual needs and preferences of the family.

1. Outreach and Information
2. Engagement, Bridging and Transition Support
3. Self-Advocacy, Self-Belief and Empowerment
4. Community Connections and Natural Supports
5. Parent Skill Development
6. Promoting Effective Family-Driven Practice

MHA has weekly family peer support groups on-line and in person !

Check our our website, call or email us for a current calendar.