

## **PRESENTATION ABSTRACT**

### **Introduction of Topic**

#### **What are the Laws that impact on Persons with disabilities?**

- PL 93-112 (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act)
- PL 105-17 (IDEA)
- PL 101-336 (ADA)
- WAC 392-172
- FERPA

#### **How do these laws/regulations apply?**

- When?
- Why?
- What rights are afforded?

#### **What resources are available to assist individuals with disabilities and their families?**

- PTI Network
- NICHCY
- NPND
- Protection and Advocacy
- Arc
- LDA
- ChADD
- PTA
- Exceptional Parent Magazine

#### **Emphasis on Team and establishing a network of support**

**Close**

## **LAWS THAT MAY BE OF USE TO FAMILIES WHO HAVE A MEMBER WITH DISABILITIES**

Individuals who have disabilities and special needs have many protections under state, and federal laws and regulations. It is beneficial to be aware of these laws and regulations and the services and protections they mandate. Many regulations insure civil rights protections, equal access as well as educational protections. Federal regulations will supercede state regulations unless the state is more protective.

When reviewing information, a P.L. (Public Law) number, or an U.S.C. (United States Code) number will let you know if the regulation is a federal regulation. Within each State, the regulations will be numbered or listed by the coding system established by the state government.

The following is a quick reference of regulations that may be of importance. They have been divided into federal and state regulations.

### **FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

**P.L. 101-336-Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** This regulation has been deemed the most expansive piece of civil rights legislation since 1964. It provides for access to public services, theaters, stores, places of lodging, as well as schools, employment, hospitals, travel etc. Many of the protections and access issues had to be in place by January 1991.

**P.L. 105-17-Individuals with disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B, Part C (formerly Part H - P.L. 102-119)** Mandates educational services for qualified individuals that are developed to address the individuals unique needs and which are consistent with an IEP/IFSP.

**Part B** covers the reauthorization of P. L. 94-142 (Education of Handicapped Children's Act - EHA) and P.L. 101-476 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). This regulation provides requirements for evaluation, Individualized Education Plans/Programs (IEP), related services (i.e. speech, occupational or physical therapies, transportation etc.), records access, assistive technology assessment, devices and services, discipline, transition services, mediation and due process for qualified individuals with disabilities ages 3 through 21 years of age.

**Part C** covers the reauthorization of P.L. 102-119 (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part H-originally P.L.99-457) This legislation establishes the availability of birth through age three services in collaboration with many agencies.

**P.L. 93-112 (29 U.S.C. 794)** Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is known as the “crib to crypt” civil rights legislation. It establishes a broad definition of a qualified individual with a disability, to include persons with; a history of a disability, individuals known as having a disability, those or suspected of having a disability, that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

**P.L. 93-516** Rehabilitation Act Amendments Of 1973 –Established the requirement for Developmental Disabilities Planning councils within each state and required that Section 504 protection extend beyond those programs receiving federal financial assistance to include federally conducted programs. This means that it now includes any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance or any program conducted by an executive agency.

**P.L. 89-313** De-Institutionalization Title I – Shifted the emphasis away from services only being provided in institutional settings and includes support and funding of services and programs within the communities that support individuals coming out of institutions.

**P.L. 93-380** Family Educational and Right to Privacy (FERPA) establishes requirements for accessing records as well as insuring the confidentiality of personally identifiable information.

**P.L. 101-392** Carl Perkins Vocational Education Act – Insures that individuals with disabilities have equal access to programs and services within vocational systems. The legislation originally set aside 10% of funds for individuals with disabilities and other under represented groups. The reauthorization removed the 10% set aside and instead stipulates that all programs and services must be accessible.

**P.L. 99-372** Attorney’s Fee Bill – Established provisions for payment of attorney’s fees for prevailing claims. P.L. 105-17 has incorporated this Act into the IDEA. It mandates new requirements for attorneys’ fees provisions. This legislation authorizes payment of reasonable attorneys for parents who prevail in cases addressing special education issues.

**P.L. 99-319** Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986 – Legislation allocating federal funds to each state for the purpose of advocating for individuals with mental illness and supporting them within the communities. Language within the regulations includes training and counseling.

**P.L. 100-407** Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act 1988 – Established provision for the acquisition of technology services and devices to assist individuals with disabilities.

**P.L. 99-509** Omnibus Reconciliation Act – maximizes the use of federal dollars and establishes a means for collaboration between services for use of Medicaid.

**P.L.90-480** Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, as amended – establishes requirements for accessibility in buildings and services.

### **STATE REGULATIONS**

Every state has established regulations in the area of education of individuals with disabilities, vocational rehabilitation, developmental disabilities services and medical assistance. Check with your state Department of Education and Division of Vocational Rehabilitation for more information on the regulations in your local area. You may want to list these regulations in the area below.

Educational Regulations

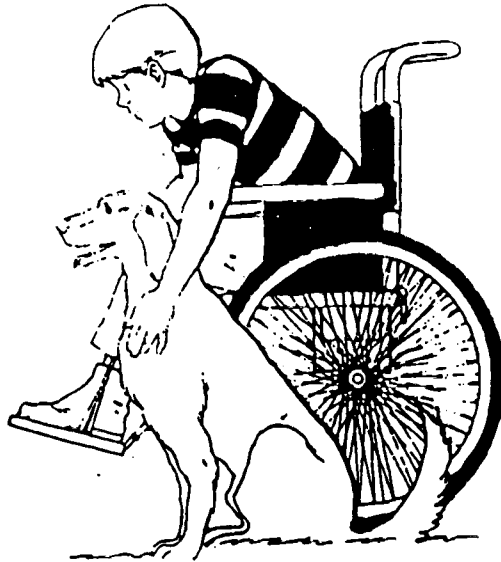
Vocational Services

Developmental Disabilities

Early Childhood education

Medical Assistance

Other Regulations



## SECTION 504: CIVIL RIGHTS LAW FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Section 504 (P.L. 93-112) protects the rights of people with disabilities of all ages, and in all areas of life. Known as a crib to crypt piece of legislation, it prohibits discrimination against persons with disabilities by any agency, organization or program receiving federal financial assistance. Therefore, Section 504 assures equal opportunities for children with disabilities in schools that receive federal funds, even if the child does not qualify for services under P.L. 105-17.

Regulations for Section 504 written by the federal government make it clear that:

- ☛ Persons with disabilities (including children) have opportunities to participate in or benefit from services equal to those provided persons who are not disabled; this also includes extra-curricular activities such as sports and clubs.
- ☛ No child with a disability may be excluded from public education services/programs because of the nature or severity of their disability.
- ☛ Programs, including educational programs, must be accessible. Structural changes in buildings are required **only** if alternative solutions, such as moving classes to the ground floor, are not possible.
- ☛ Auxiliary aids, services and program modifications must be made so that individuals with disabilities can participate in education. For example: a reader or tape recorder for a student who is blind, or an interpreter for a student who is deaf, or note taker for a person with learning disabilities. Although P.L. 105-17 (IDEA) does not apply to post-secondary schools such as vocational and college programs, Section 504 (P.L. 93-112) does.

# Technical Assistance ALLIANCE for Parent Centers

Parent centers in each state provide training and information to parents of infants, toddlers, school-aged children, and young adults with disabilities and the professionals who work with their families. This assistance helps parents participate more effectively with professionals in meeting the educational needs of children and youth with disabilities. To reach the parent center in your state, you can contact the Technical Assistance Alliance for Parent Centers (the Alliance), which coordinates the delivery of technical assistance to the Parent Training and Information Centers and the Community Parent Resource Centers through four regional centers located in California, New Hampshire, Texas, and Ohio.

## Alliance Coordinating Office:

PACER Center  
4826 Chicago Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55417-1098  
(612) 827-2966 voice  
(612) 827-7770 TTY  
(612) 827-3065 fax  
1-888-248-0822 (toll-free nationally)  
E-mail: [alliance@taalliance.org](mailto:alliance@taalliance.org)  
Web site: [www.taalliance.org](http://www.taalliance.org)  
Paula F. Goldberg, Project Co-Director  
Sharman Davis Barrett, Project Co-Director  
Sue Folger, Project Co-Director  
Dao Xiong, Multicultural Advisor  
Jesus Villaseñor, Multicultural Advisor

## Northeast Regional Center

Parent Information Center  
P.O. Box 2405  
Concord, NH 03302-2405  
(603) 224-7005 voice  
(603) 224-4365 fax  
E-mail: [picnh@aol.com](mailto:picnh@aol.com)  
Judith Raskin, Regional Director  
Lori Salvi, Technical Assistance Coordinator  
Michael Worsley, Multicultural TA Coordinator

CT, DE, DC, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, Puerto Rico,  
RI, US VI, VT

## Midwest Regional Center

Ohio Coalition for the Education of Children with Disabilities  
(OCECD)  
Bank One Building  
165 West Center Street, Suite 302  
Marion, OH 43302-3741  
(740) 382-5452 voice  
(740) 383-6421 fax  
E-mail: [ocecd@gte.net](mailto:ocecd@gte.net)  
Margaret Burley, Regional Director  
Dena Hook, Technical Assistance Coordinator  
Gloria Mitchell, Multicultural TA Coordinator

CO, IL, IA, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, WI

## South Regional Center

Partners Resource Network, Inc.  
1090 Longfellow Drive, Suite B  
Beaumont, TX 77706-4819  
(409) 898-4684 voice  
(409) 898-4869 fax  
E-mail: [rdirector@pnx.com](mailto:rdirector@pnx.com)  
Janice S. Meyer, Regional Director  
Melissa LeBlanc, Technical Assistance Coordinator  
J. Linda Juarez, Multicultural TA Coordinator

AL, AR, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

## West Regional Center

Matrix Parent Network and Resource Center  
94 Galli Drive, Suite C  
Novato, CA 94949  
(415) 884-3535  
(415) 884-3555 fax  
E-mail: [matrix@matrixparents.org](mailto:matrix@matrixparents.org)  
Deidre Hayden, Regional Director  
Nora Thompson, Technical Assistance Coordinator  
Patricia Valdez, Multicultural TA Coordinator

AK, AZ, Department of Defense Dependent Schools  
(DODDS), CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, Pacific  
Jurisdiction, UT, WA, WY

This list of federally funded Parent Centers was generated by the Alliance Coordinating Office at the PACER Center. The list changes often. Please visit the Alliance Website (<http://www.taalliance.org>) for the latest version. If there are any corrections please notify the Alliance Office.

The Alliance Grant Project Officer is Donna Fluke, Office of Special Education Programs

Revised: March 16, 1999

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Alabama

Special Education Action Committee Inc.  
Carol Blades, Director  
600 Bel Air Blvd., #210  
Mobile AL 36606-3501  
Phone 334-478-1208 Voice & TDD  
Fax 334-473-7877 800 800-222-7322 AL only  
E-mail seacofmobile@zebra.net  
Web www.hsv.tis.net/~seachsv/  
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### Arizona

Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona  
Lynn Kallis  
2600 North Wyatt Drive  
Tucson AZ 85712  
Phone 520-324-3150  
Fax 520-324-3154 800  
E-mail PPSA@azstarnet.com  
Web  
Serving

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### Alaska

PARENTS, Inc.  
Faye Nieto  
4743 E. Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage AK 99508  
Phone 907-337-7678 Voice & TDD  
Fax 907-337-7671 800 800-478-7678 in AK  
E-mail parents@alaska.net  
Web www.alaska.net/~parents/  
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### Arizona

Raising Special Kids  
Marta Urbina  
4750 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Suite 101  
Phoenix AZ 85017-3621  
Phone 602-242-4366 Voice & TDD  
Fax 602-242-4306 800 800-237-3007 in AZ  
E-mail  
Web  
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### American Samoa

American Samoa PAVE  
Fa' Anati Penitusi  
P.O. Box 3432  
Pago Pago AS 96799  
Phone 011-684-691-4446 4174  
Fax 011-684-691-6952 800  
E-mail SAMPAVE@samoatelco.com  
Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/amsamoa/  
Serving American Samoa

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### Arkansas

Arkansas Disability Coalition  
Wanda Stovall  
1123 S. University Avenue, Suite 225  
Little Rock AR 72204-1605  
Phone 501-614-7020 Voice & TDD  
Fax 501-614-9082 800 800-223-1330 AR only  
E-mail adc@aol.com  
Web  
Serving Statewide

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### Arizona

Families Reaching Harmony, Inc.  
Thedia Michelle Gamble  
P. O. Box 5423  
Window Rock AZ 86515  
Phone 520-871-7489  
Fax 520-871-7865 800  
E-mail  
Web  
Serving

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### Arkansas

FOCUS, Inc.  
Ramona Hodges  
305 West Jefferson Ave.  
Jonesboro AR 72401  
Phone 870-935-2750 Voice  
Fax 870-931-3755 800 888-247-3755  
E-mail focusinc@ipa.net  
Web  
Serving

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### California

#### DREDF

Diane Lipton

2212 Sixth Street

Berkeley CA 94710

Phone 510-644-2555 (TDD available)

Fax 510-841-8645 800 800-466-4232

E-mail [dredf@dredf.org](mailto:dredf@dredf.org)

Web [www.dredf.org](http://www.dredf.org)

Serving Northern California

With Parents Helping Parents of Santa Clara

### California

#### Matrix

Deidre Hayden

94 Galli Drive, Suite C

Novato CA 94949

Phone 415-884-3535

Fax 415-884-3555 800 1-800-578-2592

E-mail [matrix@matrixparents.org](mailto:matrix@matrixparents.org)

Web [www.matrixparents.org](http://www.matrixparents.org)

Serving Northern California

With Parents Helping Parents of Santa Clara

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### California

Exceptional Family Support, Education and Advocacy

Debbie Rowell

6402 Skyway

Paradise CA 95969

Phone 530-876-8321

Fax 530-876-0346 800 1-800-750-1101

E-mail [sea@sunset.net](mailto:sea@sunset.net)

Web [www.sea-center.org](http://www.sea-center.org)

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### California

Parents Helping Parents of San Francisco

Lois Jones

594 Monterey Blvd.

San Francisco CA 94127-2416

Phone 415-841-8820

Fax 415-841-8824 800

E-mail

Web

Serving Nine counties in the San Francisco Bay area

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### California

Exceptional Parents Unlimited

Leslie Lee

4120 N. First St.

Fresno CA 93726

Phone 559-229-2000

Fax 559-229-2956 800

E-mail [epu1@cybergate.com](mailto:epu1@cybergate.com)

Web

Serving Central California

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### California

Parents Helping Parents of Santa Clara

Mary Ellen Peterson

3041 Olcott St.

Santa Clara CA 95054-3222

Phone 408-727-5775 Voice / 408-727-7655 TDD

Fax 408-727-0182 800

E-mail [info@php.com](mailto:info@php.com)

Web [www.php.com](http://www.php.com)

Serving Northern California

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### California

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Loving Your Disabled Child

Theresa Cooper

4528 Crenshaw Boulevard

Los Angeles CA 90043

Phone 323-299-2925

Fax 323-299-4373 800

E-mail [lydc@pacbell.net](mailto:lydc@pacbell.net)

Web [angelfire.com/biz/lovingyourdisabledch/](http://angelfire.com/biz/lovingyourdisabledch/)

Serving

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### California

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Parents of Watts

Alice Harris

10828 Lou Dillon Ave

Los Angeles CA 90059

Phone 323-566-7556

Fax 323-569-3982 800

E-mail

Web

Serving With Loving Your Disabled Child



## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### California

Support for Families of Children with Disabilities

Juno Duenas

2601 Mission #710

San Francisco CA 94110-3111

Phone 415-282-7494

Fax 415-282-1226 800

E-mail [sfcdmiss@aol.com](mailto:sfcdmiss@aol.com)

Web

Serving San Francisco

### Colorado

PEAK Parent Center, Inc.

Barbara Buswell/ Judy Martz

6055 Lehman Drive, Suite 101

Colorado Springs CO 80918

Phone 719-531-9400 voice / 719-531-9403 TDD

Fax 719-531-9452 800 800-284-0251

E-mail [info@peakparent.org](mailto:info@peakparent.org)

Web [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org)

Serving Statewide

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### California

TASK, San Diego

Gus Licht, Director

3750 Convoy St., Suite 303

San Diego CA 92111-3741

Phone 619-874-2386

Fax 619-874-2375 800

E-mail

Web

Serving City of San Diego and Imperial County

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### Connecticut

CPAC

Nancy Prescott

338 Main Street

Niantic CT 06357

Phone 860-739-3089 Voice & TDD

Fax 860-739-7460 (Call 800 800-445-2722 in CT)

E-mail [cpacinc@aol.com](mailto:cpacinc@aol.com)

Web [members.aol.com/cpacinc/cpac.htm](http://members.aol.com/cpacinc/cpac.htm)

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### California

Team of Advocates for Special Kids (TASK)

Joan Tellefsen

100 West Cerritos Ave.

Anaheim CA 92805

Phone 714-533-8275

Fax 714-533-2533 800

E-mail [taskca@aol.com](mailto:taskca@aol.com)

Web

Serving Southern California

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### Delaware

Parent Information Center (PIC)

Marie-Anne Aghazadian

700 Barksdale Road, Suite 3

Newark DE 19711

Phone 302-366-0152 voice / 302-366-0178 (TDD)

Fax 302-366-0276 800

E-mail [PEP700@aol.com](mailto:PEP700@aol.com)

Web [members@aol.com/PICofDEL](http://members@aol.com/PICofDEL)

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### California

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Vietnamese Parents of Disabled Children Assoc., Inc.  
(VPDCA)

Luyen Chu

314 Gina Dr.

Carson CA 90745

Phone 310-370-6704

Fax 310-542-0522 800

E-mail [luyenchu@aol.com](mailto:luyenchu@aol.com)

Web

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### District of Columbia

Advocates for Justice and Education

Bethann West

2513 Alabama Ave., SE

Washington DC 20020

Phone 202-678-8060

Fax 202-678-8062 800 1-888-327-8060

E-mail [justice1@bellatlantic.net](mailto:justice1@bellatlantic.net)

Web [www.aje.qpg.com](http://www.aje.qpg.com)

Serving Temporarily serving Wards 6, 7, & 8 of the District of Columbia

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### District of Columbia

DC Parent Training & Information Center

Holly Easterday Adams

817 Varnum St., NE

Washington DC 20017

Phone 202-832-6860

Fax 202-636-2996 800

E-mail

Web

Serving Temporarily serving the Washington DC area.

### Hawaii

AWARE

Jennifer Schember-Lang, Exec Director

200 N. Vineyard Blvd., Suite 310

Honolulu HI 96817

Phone 808-536-9684 (voice) / 808-536-2280 (Voice & TTY)

Fax 808-537-6780 800

E-mail ldah@gte.net

Web

Serving Statewide

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### Florida

Family Network on Disabilities

Jan LaBelle

2735 Whitney Road

Clearwater FL 33760-1610

Phone 813-523-1130

Fax 813-523-8687 800 800-825-5736 FL only

E-mail fnd@fndfl.org

Web fndfl.org

Serving Statewide

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### Idaho

Idaho Parents Unlimited, Inc.

Cheryl Fisher

4696 Overland Road, Suite 568

Boise ID 83705

Phone 208-342-5884 Voice & TDD

Fax 208-342-1408 800 800-242-4785

E-mail ipul@rmci.net

Web home.rmci.net/IPUL

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### Florida

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Parent to Parent of Miami, Inc.

Janet Bell Taylor

c/o Sunrise Community

9040 Sunset Drive, Suite G

Miami FL 33173

Phone 305-271-9797

Fax 305-271-6628 800

E-mail PtoP1086@aol.com

Web Miami Dade and Monroe Counties

Serving

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### Illinois

Designs for Change

Donald Moore/ Miguel Jimenez

6 North Michigan Ave., Suite 1600

Chicago IL 60602

Phone 312-857-9292 voice / 312-857-1013 TDD

Fax 312-857-9299 ~ 800 1-800-851-8728

E-mail dcf1@aol.com

Web

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### Georgia

Parents Educating Parents and Professionals for All  
Children (PEPPAC)

Linda Shepard

8318 Durelee Lane Ste 101

Douglasville GA 30134

Phone 770-577-7771

Fax 770-577-7774 800

E-mail peppac@bellsouth.net

Web www.peppac.org

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### Illinois

Family Resource Center on Disabilities

Charlotte Des Jardins

20 E. Jackson Blvd., Room 900

Chicago IL 60604

Phone 312-939-3513 voice / 312-939-3519 TTY & TDY

Fax 312-939-7297 800 1-800-952-4199 IL only

E-mail frcdptiil@ameritech.net

Web www.ameritech.net/users/frcdptiil/index.html

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# Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

## Illinois

Family T.I.E.S. Network

Deb Kunz

830 South Spring

Springfield IL 62704

Phone 217-544-5809

Fax 217-544-6018 800 800-865-7842

E-mail ftiesn@aol.com

Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/fties/

Serving Central and Southern Illinois

## Kansas

Families Together, Inc.

Connie Zienkewicz

3340 W Douglas, Ste 102

Wichita KS 67203

Phone 316-945-7747

Fax 316-945-7795 800 1-888-815-6364

E-mail fmin@feist.com

Web www.kansas.net/~family

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## Illinois

National Center for Latinos with Disabilities

Maria Elena Rodriguez-Sullivan

1921 South Blue Island Ave.

Chicago IL 60608

Phone 312-666-3393 voice / 312-666-1788 TTY

Fax 312-666-1787 800 1-800-532-3393

E-mail nclcd@nclcd.com

Web www.nclcd.com

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## Kentucky

Family Training & Information Center

Paulette Logsdon

2210 Goldsmith Lane, Suite 118

Louisville KY 40218

Phone 502-456-0923

Fax 502-456-0893 800 800-525-7746

E-mail FamilyTrng@aol.com; spin@aol.com

Web

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## Indiana

IN\*SOURCE

Richard Burden

809 N. Michigan St.

South Bend IN 46601-1036

Phone 219-234-7101

Fax 219-234-7279 800 800-332-4433 in IN

E-mail insourc1@aol.com

Web home1.gte.net/insource

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## Louisiana

Project PROMPT

Leah Knight

4323 Division Street, Suite 110

Metairie LA 70002-3179

Phone 504-888-9111

Fax 504-888-0246 800 800-766-7736

E-mail fhfgno@ix.netcom.com

Web www.projectprompt.com

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## Iowa

Parent Training & Information Center of Iowa

Jule Reynolds

3015 Merle Hay Rd., #6

Des Moines IA 50310

Phone 515-251-7323

Fax 515-270-4602 800 1-800-450-8667

E-mail

Web

Serving Temporarily Statewide

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## Louisiana

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Pyramid Parent Training Program

Ursula Markey

P.O. Box 51837

New Orleans LA 70151

Phone 504-895-5970

Fax 504-899-5739 800

E-mail Dmarkey404@aol.com

Web

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## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Maine

Special Needs Parent Info Network

Janice LaChance

P.O. Box 2067

Augusta ME 04338-2067

Phone 207-582-2504

Fax 207-582-3638 800 800-870-SPIN in ME

E-mail [jlachance@mpf.org](mailto:jlachance@mpf.org)

Web [www.mpf.org](http://www.mpf.org)

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### Michigan

Parents are Experts

Pat Dwelle

23077 Greenfield Road, Suite 205

Southfield MI 48075-3745

Phone 248-557-5070 Voice & TDD

Fax 248-557-4456 800 800-827-4843

E-mail [ucp@ameritech.net](mailto:ucp@ameritech.net)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/mi-parents/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/mi-parents/)

Serving Wayne County

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### Maryland

Parents Place of Maryland, Inc.

Josie Thomas

7257 Parkway Drive, Suite 210

Hanover MD 21076-1306

Phone 410-712-0900 Voice & TDD

Fax 410-712-0902 800

E-mail [parplace@aol.com](mailto:parplace@aol.com)

Web [www.somersset.net/ParentsPlace](http://www.somersset.net/ParentsPlace)

Serving Statewide

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### Minnesota

PACER Center, Inc.

Paula Goldberg/ Virginia Richardson

4826 Chicago Avenue South

Minneapolis MN 55417-1098

Phone 612-827-2966 (Voice); 612-827-7770 (TTY)

Fax 612-827-3065 800 800-537-2237 in MN

E-mail [pacer@pacer.org](mailto:pacer@pacer.org)

Web [www.pacer.org](http://www.pacer.org)

Serving Statewide

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### Massachusetts

Federation for Children with Special Needs

Richard Robison

**1135 TREMONT STREET, SUITE 410**

**BOSTON, MA 02120-2140**

**PHONE: (617) 236-7210**

**FAX: (617) 572-2094**

)-331-0688 in MA

E-mail [fcsninfo@fcsn.org](mailto:fcsninfo@fcsn.org)

Web [www.fcsn.org/](http://www.fcsn.org/)

Serving Statewide

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### Mississippi

Parent Partners

Aretha Lee, Director

1900 North West St, Ste. C-100

Jackson MS 39202

Phone 601-714-5707

Fax 601-714-4025 800 800-366-5707 in MS

E-mail [ptiofms@misnet.com](mailto:ptiofms@misnet.com)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/ms/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/ms/)

Serving Statewide

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### Michigan

CAUSE

Patrick Strong

3303 W. Saginaw, Suite F-1

Lansing MI 48917-2303

Phone 517-886-9167 Voice & TDD & TDY

Fax 517-886-9775 800 800-221-9105 in MI

E-mail [info-cause@voyager.net](mailto:info-cause@voyager.net)

Web [www.pathwaynet.com/cause/](http://www.pathwaynet.com/cause/)

Serving Statewide

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### Mississippi

Project Empower

Agnes Johnson

136 South Poplar Ave

Greenville MS 38701

Phone 601-332-4852

Fax 601-332-1622 800 1-800-337-4852

E-mail

Web

Serving Statewide

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Missouri

Missouri Parents Act  
Kent Kolaga, Executive Director  
1901 Windriver Drive  
Jefferson City MO 65101  
Phone 573-635-1189  
Fax 573-635-7802 800 800-743-7634 (MO only)  
E-mail mpactcs@crn.org  
Web www.crn.org/mpact  
Serving Statewide

### New Hampshire

Parent Information Center  
Judith Raskin  
P.O. Box 2405  
Concord NH 03302-2405  
Phone 603-224-7005 (Voice & TDD)  
Fax 603-224-4365 800 800-232-0986 in NH  
E-mail picnh@aol.com  
Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/nhpic/  
Serving Statewide

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### Montana

Parents Let's Unite for Kids  
Katharin Kelker  
516 N. 32nd Street  
Billings MT 59101  
Phone 406-255-0540  
Fax 406-255-0523 800 800-222-7585 in MT  
E-mail plukmt@wtp.net  
Web www.pluk.org  
Serving Statewide

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### New Jersey

Statewide Parent Advocacy Network (SPAN)  
Diana MTK Autin  
35 Halsey Street, 4th Floor  
Newark NJ 07102  
Phone 973-642-8100  
Fax 973-642-8080 800 800-654-SPAN  
E-mail span@bellatlantic.net  
Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/nj/  
Serving Statewide

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### Nebraska

Nebraska Parents Center  
Glenda Davis  
1941 South 42nd Street, Suite #122  
Omaha NE 68105-2942  
Phone 402-346-0525 Voice & TDD  
Fax 402-346-5253 800 800-284-8520  
E-mail gdavis@neparentcenter.org  
Web www.neparentcenter.org  
Serving Statewide

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### New Mexico

EPICS Project  
Martha J. Gorospe  
P.O. Box 788  
Bernalillo NM 87004  
Phone 505-867-3396; 505-881-0185  
Fax 505-867-3398 800 800-765-7320 V/TDD  
E-mail epics@highfiber.com  
Web  
Serving Parents of Indian Children with Special Needs  
nationwide

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### Nevada

Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents (PEP)  
Karen Taycher  
601 S. Rancho Dr., Suite C25  
Las Vegas NV 89106  
Phone 702-388-8899  
Fax 702-388-2966 800 800-216-5188  
E-mail nvpep@vegas.infi.net  
Web www.vegas.infi.net/~nvpep/  
Serving Statewide

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### New Mexico

Parents Reaching Out, Project ADOBE  
Larry Fuller  
1000-A Main St. NW  
Los Lunas NM 87031  
Phone 505-865-3700 Voice & TDD  
Fax 505-865-3737 800 800-524-5176 in NM  
E-mail pro@nm.net  
Web  
Serving Statewide

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### New York

Advocates for Children of NY

Ana Espada

105 Court Street, Ste. 402

Brooklyn NY 11201

Phone 718-624-8450

Fax 718-624-1260 800

E-mail [advocat1@idt.com](mailto:advocat1@idt.com)

Web

Serving Five boroughs of New York City

### New York

The Advocacy Center

Colin Garwood

277 Alexander St., Suite 500

Rochester NY 14607

Phone 716-546-1700

Fax 716-546-7069 800 800-650-4967 (NY only)

E-mail [advocacy@frontiernet.net](mailto:advocacy@frontiernet.net)

Web [www.advocacycenter.com](http://www.advocacycenter.com)

Serving

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### New York

Parent Network Center

Joan Watkins

250 Delaware Avenue, Suite 3

Buffalo NY 14202

Phone 716-853-1570 voice / 716-853-1573 TTD

Fax 716-853-1574 800 800-724-7408 in NY

E-mail

Web

Serving Statewide except in NY City

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### New York

✕

United We Stand

Lourdes Rivera-Putz

c/o Casa del Barrio

728 Driggs Ave

Brooklyn NY 11211

Phone 718-302-4313

Fax 718-302-4315 800

E-mail [uwsosfny@aol.com](mailto:uwsosfny@aol.com)

Web

Serving

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### New York

Resources for Children with Special Needs

Karen Schlesinger, Director

200 Park Ave. S., Suite 816

New York NY 10003

Phone 212-677-4650

Fax 212-254-4070 800

E-mail [resourcesnyc@prodigy.net](mailto:resourcesnyc@prodigy.net)

Web

Serving New York City

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### North Carolina

Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) Inc.

Connie Hawkins / Mary LaCorte

P.O. Box 16

Davidson NC 28036

Phone 704-892-1321

Fax 704-892-5028 (Call 800 800-962-6817 NC only)

E-mail [ECAC1@aol.com](mailto:ECAC1@aol.com)

Web

Serving Statewide

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### New York

Sinergia/Metropolitan Parent Center

Myrta Cuadra, Executive Director

15 West 65th St., 6th Floor

New York NY 10023

Phone 212-496-1300

Fax 212-496-5608 800

E-mail [Sinergia@panix.com](mailto:Sinergia@panix.com)

Web [www.panix.com/~sinergia](http://www.panix.com/~sinergia)

Serving New York City

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### North Dakota

Pathfinder

Kathryn Erickson

Arrowhead Shopping Center

1600 2nd Ave. SW

Minot ND 58701

Phone 701-837-7500 voice / 701-837-7501 TTY

Fax 701-837-7548 800 1-800-245-5840

E-mail [ndpath01@minot.ndak.net](mailto:ndpath01@minot.ndak.net)

Web [www.ndcd.org/pathfinder](http://www.ndcd.org/pathfinder)

Serving Statewide

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Ohio

Child Advocacy Center

Cathy Heizman

1821 Summit Road, Suite 303

Cincinnati OH 45237

Phone 513-821-2400

Fax 513-821-2442 800

E-mail CADCenter@aol.com

Web

Serving Southwestern Ohio, Northern Kentucky,  
Dearborn County, Indiana

### Pennsylvania

\*

Hispanos Unidas para Vinos Impedidos (Hispanics  
United for Special Needs Children)

Luz Hernandez

149 W Susquehanna Ave

Philadelphia PA 19122

Phone 215-425-6203

Fax 215-425-6204 800

E-mail

Web American Street Empowerment Zone

Serving

### Ohio

OCECD

Margaret Burley

Bank One Building

165 West Center St., Suite 302

Marion OH 43302-3741

Phone 740-382-5452 Voice & TDD

Fax 740-383-6421 800 800-374-2806

E-mail ocecd@gte.net

Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/regohio/

Serving Statewide

### Pennsylvania

Parent Education Network

Louise Thieme

333 East Seventh Avenue

York PA 17404

Phone 717-845-9722 Voice & TTY

Fax 717-848-3654 800 800-522-5827 in PA

E-mail pen@parentednet.org

Web

Serving Statewide, 1-800-441-5028 (Spanish in PA)

### Oklahoma

Parents Reaching Out in OK

Sharon Bishop

1917 S. Harvard Avenue

Oklahoma City OK 73128

Phone 405-681-9710

Fax 405-685-4006 800 800-PL9-4142

E-mail prook1@aol.com

Web www.taalliance.org/ptis/ok/

Serving Statewide

### Pennsylvania

Parents Union for Public Schools in Philadelphia

Janet Lonsdale

311 S. Juniper St., Suite 200

Philadelphia PA 19107

Phone 215-546-1166

Fax 215-731-1688 800

E-mail ParentsU@aol.com

Web

Serving City of Philadelphia, occasional service to  
surrounding counties

### Oregon

Oregon COPE Project

999 Locust St. NE

Salem OR 97303

Phone 503-581-8156 Voice & TDD

Fax 503-391-0429 800 1-888-505-COPE

E-mail orcope@open.org

Web www.open.org/orcope

Serving Statewide

### Puerto Rico

APNI

Carmen Sellés de Vilá

P.O. Box 21301

Ponce de Leon 724

San Juan PR 00928-1301

Phone 787-763-4665

Fax 787-765-0345 800 1-800-981-8492

E-mail apnpr@prtc.net

Web

Serving Island of Puerto Rico

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Rhode Island

RI Parent Info Network, Inc. (RIPIN)

Elizabeth Priestley

175 Main Street

Pawtucket RI 02860-4101

Phone 401-727-4144 voice / 401-727-4151 TDD

Fax 401-727-4040 800 800-464-3399 in RI

E-mail [priestley@ripin.org](mailto:priestley@ripin.org)

Web <http://www.ripin.org/>

Serving Statewide

### Texas

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El Valle Community Parent Resource Center

Laura Reagan

530 South Texas Blvd, Suite J

Weslaco TX 78596

Phone 956-969-3611

Fax 956-969-8761 800 800-680-0255 TX only

E-mail [lrndr2@aol.com](mailto:lrndr2@aol.com)

Web [www.tfepoder.org](http://www.tfepoder.org)

Serving Cameron, Willacy, & Starr Counties.

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### South Carolina

PRO-PARENTS

Mary Eaddy

2712 Middleburg Drive, Suite 203

Columbia SC 29204

Phone 803-779-3859 Voice & TDD

Fax 803-252-4513 800 800-759-4776 in SC

E-mail [pro-parents@aol.com](mailto:pro-parents@aol.com)

Web

Serving Statewide

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### Texas

Grassroots Consortium (SKI)

Agnes A. Johnson

6202 Belmark

P.O. Box 266958

Houston TX 77087

Phone 713-643-9576; 713-734-5355

Fax 713-643-6291 800

E-mail [SpeckKids@aol.com](mailto:SpeckKids@aol.com)

Web

Serving Comprised of various community groups nationwide

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### South Dakota

South Dakota Parent Connection

Bev Schreck

3701 West 49th St., Suite 200B

Sioux Falls SD 57106

Phone 605-361-3171 Voice & TDD

Fax 605-361-2928 800 800-640-4553 in SD

E-mail [bschreck@dakota.net](mailto:bschreck@dakota.net)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/sd/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/sd/)

Serving Statewide

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### Texas

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Parents Supporting Parents Network

Margarita Tagle-Greenlees

614 N Texas Blvd, Suite C

Weslaco TX 78596

Phone 956-447-8408

Fax 512-454-4956 800

E-mail

Web

Serving

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### Tennessee

Support and Training for Exceptional Parents, Inc.

Nancy Diehl

424 E. Bernard Ave., Suite 3

Greeneville TN 37745

Phone 423-639-0125 voice / 636-8217 TDD

Fax 423-636-8217 800 800-280-STEP in TN

E-mail [tstep@aol.com](mailto:tstep@aol.com)

Web [www.tstep.org](http://www.tstep.org)

Serving Statewide

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### Texas

Partners Resource Network Inc.

Janice Meyer

1090 Longfellow Drive, Suite B

Beaumont TX 77706-4819

Phone 409-898-4684 Voice & TDD

Fax 409-898-4869 800 800-866-4726 in TX

E-mail [rdirector@pnx.com](mailto:rdirector@pnx.com)

Web [www.salsa.net/~path](http://www.salsa.net/~path)

Serving Statewide



## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### Texas

#### Project PODER

Yvette Hinojosa

1017 N. Main Ave., Suite 207

San Antonio TX 78212

Phone 210-222-2637

Fax 210-475-9283 800 800-682-9747 TX only

E-mail [poder@tfepoder.org](mailto:poder@tfepoder.org)

Web [www.tfepoder.org](http://www.tfepoder.org)

Serving San Antonio, Hondo, & Catroville. Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, & Starr Counties.

### Virginia

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PADDA, Inc.

Mark Jacob

11048 Warwick Boulevard

Newport News VA 23601

Phone 757-591-9119

Fax 757-591-8990 800 888-337-2332

E-mail [sigss@erol.com](mailto:sigss@erol.com)

Web [www.padda.org](http://www.padda.org)

Serving Southeastern VA

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### Utah

#### Utah Parent Center

Helen Post

2290 East 4500 S., Suite 110

Salt Lake City UT 84117

Phone 801-272-1051

Fax 801-272-8907 800 800-468-1160 in UT

E-mail [upc@inconnect.com](mailto:upc@inconnect.com)

Web

Serving Statewide

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### Virginia

#### Parent Educational Advocacy Training Center

Cheri Takemoto

10340 Democracy Lane, Suite 206

Fairfax VA 22030-2518

Phone 703-691-7826

Fax 703-691-8148 800 800-869-6782 VA only

E-mail [partners@peatc.org](mailto:partners@peatc.org)

Web [www.peatc.org](http://www.peatc.org)

Serving Statewide

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### Vermont

#### Vermont Parent Information Center

Connie Curtin

1 Mill Street, Suite A7

Burlington VT 05401

Phone 802-658-5315 Voice & TDD

Fax 802-658-5395 800 800-639-7170 in VT

E-mail [vpic@together.net](mailto:vpic@together.net)

Web [www.together.net/~vpic](http://www.together.net/~vpic)

Serving Statewide

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### Washington

#### PAVE / STOMP

Heather Hebdon

6316 South 12th St.

Tacoma WA 98465

Phone 253-565-2266 Voice & TTY

Fax 253-566-8052 800 800-572-7368

E-mail [wapave9@washingtonpave.com](mailto:wapave9@washingtonpave.com)

Web [washingtonpave.org/stomp.html](http://washingtonpave.org/stomp.html)

Serving U.S. Military installations

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### Virgin Islands

#### V.I. FIND

Catherine Rehema Glenn

#2 Nye Gade

PO Box 11670

St. Thomas US VI 00802

Phone 340-775-3962; 809-774-1662

Fax 340-775-3962 800

E-mail [vifind@islands.vi](mailto:vifind@islands.vi)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/vifind/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/vifind/)

Serving Virgin Islands

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### Washington

#### Washington PAVE

Joanne Butts

6316 South 12th

Tacoma WA 98465-1900

Phone 253-565-2266 (Voice & TDD)

Fax 253-566-8052 800 800-572-7368 in WA

E-mail [wapave9@washingtonpave.com](mailto:wapave9@washingtonpave.com)

Web [washingtonpave.org](http://washingtonpave.org)

Serving Statewide

## Funded Parent Training & Information Projects and Community Parent Resource Centers

### West Virginia

West Virginia PTI

Pat Haberbosch

371 Broaddus Ave

Clarksburg WV 26301

Phone 304-624-1436 Voice & TTY

Fax 304-624-1438 800 800-281-1436 in WV

E-mail [wvpti@aol.com](mailto:wvpti@aol.com)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/wv/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/wv/)

Serving Statewide

### Wyoming

Parent Information Center

Terri Dawson, Exec Dir

5 North Lobban

Buffalo WY 82834

Phone 307-684-2277 Voice & TDD

Fax 307-684-5314 800 800-660-9742 WY only

E-mail [tdawsonpic@vcn.com](mailto:tdawsonpic@vcn.com)

Web

Serving Statewide

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### Wisconsin

Native American Family Empowerment Center

Don Rosin

Great Lakes InterTribal Council

2932 Highway 47N, P.O. Box 9

Lac du Flambeau WI 54538

Phone 715-588-3324

Fax 715-588-7900 800 800-472-7207

E-mail [drosin@newnorth.net](mailto:drosin@newnorth.net)

Web

Serving

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### Wisconsin

Parent Education Project of Wisconsin

S. Patrice Colletti, SDS

2192 South 60th Street

West Allis WI 53219-1568

Phone 414-328-5520 Voice / 414-328-5525 TDD

Fax 414-328-5530 800 800-231-8382 (WI only)

E-mail [PMColletti@aol.com](mailto:PMColletti@aol.com)

Web [members.aol.com/pepofwi/](http://members.aol.com/pepofwi/)

Serving Statewide

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### Wisconsin

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Wisconsin FACETS

Janis M. Serak

2714 North Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.

Suite E

Milwaukee WI 53212

Phone 414-374-4645 / 414-374-4635 TTD

Fax 414-374-4655 800

E-mail [endress@caries.dental.mu.edu](mailto:endress@caries.dental.mu.edu)

Web Milwaukee

Serving

## Grassroots Consortium, by State

**California** \*  
Loving Your Disabled Child  
Theresa Cooper  
4528 Crenshaw Boulevard  
Los Angeles CA 90043  
Phone 323-299-2925  
Fax 323-299-4373 800  
E-mail lydc@pacbell.net  
Web angelfire.com/biz/lovingyourdisabledch/  
Serving

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**Louisiana** \*  
Pyramid Parent Training Program  
Ursula Markey  
P.O. Box 51837  
New Orleans LA 70151  
Phone 504-895-5970  
Fax 504-899-5739 800  
E-mail Dmarkey404@aol.com  
Web  
Serving

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**California** \*  
Parents of Watts  
Alice Harris  
10828 Lou Dillon Ave  
Los Angeles CA 90059  
Phone 323-566-7556  
Fax 323-569-3982 800  
E-mail  
Web  
Serving With Loving Your Disabled Child

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**Massachusetts**  
Island Parents Ed. Support & Training Ctr. (IPEST)  
Carol Kennedy  
Martha's Vineyard  
202 Lake St., P.O. Box 4081  
Vineyard Haven MA 02568  
Phone 508-696-5486  
Fax 508-693-7717 800  
E-mail ckennedy@tiac.net  
Web  
Serving

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**California** \*  
Vietnamese Parents of Disabled Children Assoc., Inc.  
Luyen Chu  
314 Gina Dr.  
Carson CA 90745  
Phone 310-370-6704  
Fax 310-542-0522 800  
E-mail luyenchu@aol.com  
Web  
Serving With Loving Your Disabled Child

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**Michigan**  
Urban Parents Becoming Effective Advocates  
Edith Sharp  
9950 Fielding  
Detroit MI 48228  
Phone 313-835-6898  
Fax 313-837-0358 (call) 800  
E-mail  
Web  
Serving

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**Florida**  
COFFO, Inc.  
Santiago Garcia  
P.O. Box 900368  
305 S. Flagler Ave.  
Homestead FL 33030  
Phone 305-246-0357  
Fax 305-246-2445 800  
E-mail  
Web  
Serving

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**New York** \*  
United We Stand  
Lourdes Rivera-Putz  
c/o Casa del Barrio  
728 Driggs Ave  
Brooklyn NY 11211  
Phone 718-302-4313  
Fax 718-302-4315 800  
E-mail uwsofny@aol.com  
Web  
Serving

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## Grassroots Consortium, by State

### Pennsylvania

Mentor Parent Program

Gail Walker

PO Box 47

Pittsfield PA 16340

Phone [814-563-3470](tel:814-563-3470)

Fax [814-563-3445](tel:814-563-3445) 800 1-888-447-1431 (in PA)

E-mail [gal97@penn.com](mailto:gal97@penn.com)

Web

Serving

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### Washington

Parent to Parent Power

Yvone Link

1118 S 142nd St.

Tacoma WA 98444

Phone [253-531-2022](tel:253-531-2022)

Fax [253-531-2022](tel:253-531-2022) 800

E-mail [ylink@aol.com](mailto:ylink@aol.com)

Web

Serving

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### South Dakota

Lakota Tiwahe Tokata Ho/Voices Project

Carol Ironrope Herrera

PO Box 937

Pine Ridge SD 57770

Phone [605-867-1392](tel:605-867-1392)

Fax [605-867-5832](tel:605-867-5832) 800

E-mail [dakotanation@gwtc.net](mailto:dakotanation@gwtc.net)

Web

Serving

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### Texas

Grassroots Consortium (SKI)

Agnes A. Johnson

6202 Belmark

P.O. Box 266958

Houston TX 77067

Phone [713-643-9576](tel:713-643-9576); [713-734-5355](tel:713-734-5355)

Fax [713-643-6291](tel:713-643-6291) 800

E-mail [SpecKids@aol.com](mailto:SpecKids@aol.com)

Web

Serving Comprised of various community groups nationwide

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### Virgin Islands

V.I. FIND

Catherine Rehema Glenn

#2 Nye Gade

PO Box 11670

St. Thomas US VI 00802

Phone [340-775-3962](tel:340-775-3962); [809-774-1662](tel:809-774-1662)

Fax [340-775-3962](tel:340-775-3962) 800

E-mail [vifind@islands.vi](mailto:vifind@islands.vi)

Web [www.taalliance.org/ptis/vifind/](http://www.taalliance.org/ptis/vifind/)

Serving Virgin Islands

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# State Directors of Special Education

Every state has a state education agency that is responsible for general supervision of the state's special education services for children and young adults with disabilities. Within each agency, one individual has the primary responsibility of overseeing these services. Usually, this person is called the State Director of Special Education. This individual—or his or her staff—can direct parents to appropriate local resources; is knowledgeable about the state's procedural safeguard system (the system for handling complaints, mediation, and due process procedures); and can offer other assistance as needed.

The listings in this directory were provided by the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE), 1800 Diagonal Rd., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 519-3800 (voice); (703) 519-7008 (TTY); (703) 519-3808 (fax); and are current as of November 1998.

This symbol, E3, indicates an e-mail address. (Unless otherwise indicated, all telephone numbers are for voice only.)

## ALABAMA

Mary Whetstone  
Alabama Dept. of Education  
Dir. of Instruction,  
Special Ed. Services  
PO Box 302101  
Montgomery, AL 36130-2101  
(334) 242-8114  
(334) 242-8192 (fax)  
E3mabryw@ednet.alstate.edu

## ALASKA

Diana Brown  
Director, Office of Special and  
Supplemental Services  
Alaska Dept. of Ed.  
801 W. Tenth St., Ste. 200  
Juneau, AK 99801-1845  
(907) 485-2572  
(907) 485-3396 (fax)

## AMERICAN SAMOA

Jane French  
Assistant Director  
Dept. of Ed.  
Special Ed.  
Pago Pago, AS 96799  
(804) 633-1323  
(804) 633-7707 (fax)  
E3jfranch@interwork.as.edu

## ARIZONA

Kathryn A. Lund  
Deputy Associate Superintendent  
Arizona Dept. of Special Ed.  
1635 W. Jefferson  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3280  
(602) 542-3084  
(602) 542-5404 (fax)

## ARKANSAS

Diane Byrdotak  
Associate Director of Special Ed.  
Arkansas Dept. of Education  
Dept. of Ed. Bldg., Rm. 105-C  
94 Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-4221  
(501) 682-6159 (fax)

## CALIFORNIA

Alice Parker  
State Director  
California Dept. of Ed.  
Special Ed.  
515 L St., #270  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 445-4802  
(916) 327-3708 (fax)  
E3aparker@doe.ca.gov

## COLORADO

Lorrie Hattar  
Acting Director  
Colorado Dept. of Ed.,  
Special Ed. Services Unit  
201 E. Colfax Ave.  
Denver, CO 80203  
(303) 866-8694  
(303) 866-6811 (fax)

## CONNECTICUT

George Dowdally  
Acting Associate Commissioner  
Bureau of Special Ed. & Pupil  
Personal Services.  
Connecticut State Dept. of Ed.  
25 Industrial Park Rd.  
Middletown, CT 06457  
(860) 638-4267  
(860) 638-4252 (fax)

## DELAWARE

Dr. Martha Brooks  
Director, Delaware Dept. of Ed.,  
Dept. of Public Instruction  
PO Box 1402  
Dover, DE 19903-1402  
(302) 739-5471  
(302) 739-2388 (fax)

## DEPT. OF DEFENSE

Carle Rothenbacher  
Dept. of Defense Education Activity  
Office of Dependents' Ed.  
4040 Fairfax Dr.  
Arlington, VA 22203  
(703) 696-4493 ext. 151  
(703) 696-8924

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Joyce Armstrong  
Director of Assessment and Placement  
State Office of Special Ed.  
Dir. of Special Ed.  
625 N. Capitol St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20002  
(202) 724-8635  
(202) 724-3630 (fax)

## FLORIDA

Stan Goff  
Florida Education Center  
Bureau of Instruction Support and  
Community Service  
325 W. Gaines St., Ste. 614  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0400  
(904) 488-1570

## GEORGIA

Paulette Bragg  
Georgia Dept. of Ed.  
Div. for Exceptional Students  
1870 Twin Towers E.  
Atlanta, GA 30334-5001  
(404) 656-3963  
(404) 651-6457 (fax)

## GUAM

Vince Leon Guerrero  
Dept. of Ed.  
Special Ed. Dir.  
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## ON LINE RESOURCES

<http://www.washingtonpave.org>

<http://www.birthdefects.org>

<http://www.ospi.wednet.edu> (Washington State education agency look for packet titled "Meeting The Needs of All Students" to down load)

<http://www.familyvillage.wisc.edu> (lots of information & links to other sites)

<http://thomas.loc.gov> (laws)

<http://www.ldonline.org> (learning disabilities organization)

<http://www.ed.gov/>

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OSERS/IDEA> (Office of Spec. Ed. WA DC)

<http://www.lrp.com/ed/> (legal resource publication)

<http://www.nichcy.org> (NICHCY - National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities)

<http://www.childrensdefense.org> (family right to privacy information)

<http://www.NORD-RBD.com/~orphan> (National Organization of Rare Disorders)

<http://www.ncd.gov> (National Council on Disability)

<http://www.healthlaw.org> (the National Health Law Program)

<http://www.familiesusa.org>

<http://www.ucpa.org>

<http://www.ed.gov/offices/OCR/> (Office for Civil Rights)

<http://www.edlaw.net/> (information on attorneys who represent parents & other information)

<http://www.bazelon.org> (Bazelon center for Mental Health Law)

<http://www.nami.org> (The Nation's Voice on Mental Illness)

<http://www.npnd.org> (National Parent Network on Disability)

<http://www.ssa.gov/> (SSI Information)

<http://www.pacer.org> (links to all parent training & information centers)

<http://talliance.org/apcn/apcn.htm>

[http://www.ssa.gov/legislation/legis\\_intro.html](http://www.ssa.gov/legislation/legis_intro.html) (Medicaid eligibility/SSI eligibility)

<http://www.newhorizons.org> (new horizons for learning)

<http://www.wa.nea.org> (WA. State education Association)

<http://www.wastatepta.org/> (Washington State PTA)

<http://www.thearc.org/>

<http://www.autism-society.org>

<http://www.add.org> (ADD Association)

<http://www.chadd.org>

<http://www.ldanal.org> (LD Association)

<http://www.interdys.org> (International Dyslexia Association)



<http://www.cec.sped.org/> (Council for Exceptional Children)

<http://www.naspweb.org> (National Assoc. of School Psych.)

<http://www.childrensdefense.org> (Childrens Defense Fund)

<http://www.peds.umn.edu/centers/ncyd> (National Center for Youth  
w/disabilities)

<http://www.ncpie.org> (National Coalition for Parent involvement in  
education)

<http://www.perc-schwabfdn.org> (Parents & Ed. Resource Center)

<http://www.protectionandadvocacy.com> (Protection & Advocacy)

<http://www.wrightslaw.com> (The Special Ed. Advocate)

<http://npin.org/pnes/1998/pnew798/inte798d.htm>

<http://mfrc.calib.com>

## STRATEGIES FOR RECRUITING FAMILY MEMBERS FROM DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS FOR ROLES IN POLICY AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

by Kim Brame  
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*This Early Childhood Bulletin is intended to assist current ICC members and others in their efforts to enroll, recruit, and support families from diverse backgrounds as active vital participants in shaping the policies and programs that affect their lives and those of their children. The recommendations and strategies presented here were gathered from ICC parent members and other parent representatives from across the country through telephone conversations with the author. All those interviewed share the mission of promoting the participation of family members from diverse backgrounds at program and policy levels in local and state Interagency Coordinating Councils and parent resource and support groups.*

Families throughout the United States, are experiencing the obstacles, challenges, and rewards of raising a child or children with disabilities. This experience is not limited to one ethnic or cultural group or to a particular economic or social background. In most of these families, family members devote a lot of time and energy trying to meet the special needs of their children. At the same time, many families may also be confronting additional stresses in meeting their commitments at home, work or in the community. These additional challenges are even more pressing for families who daily confront the effects of poverty, racism, discrimination or the long-time societal results of these conditions. Despite these added challenges, many family members from diverse backgrounds would like to participate in their local and state Interagency Coordinating Councils (ICC) or parent resource and support groups.

At the same time, ICCs and other organizations have expressed a desire and commitment to representing and serving better the diversity of families in the communities they serve. ICCs and organizations providing direct service are recognizing that to meet their commitment they must include families from a diversity of backgrounds as active participants in program and policy development. Diverse representation at these levels is necessary to ensure that service delivery can be individualized to meet the real needs of all families. Diverse perspectives are equally important if progress is to be made in the areas of family-professional collaboration and in the development of community-based services. Yet, despite the critical importance of all these

issues to families and professionals committed to the well-being of children and families, ICCs and other organizations are finding it difficult to recruit family members from diverse backgrounds to play a role in program and policy development, and to support their ongoing participation in those roles.

Before listing strategies, it is important to clarify here that "diversity" is defined in its broadest sense in this article. Diversity reflects such variables as education, family status, ethnicity, religious beliefs, socioeconomic status, gender, culture, geography, sexual orientation, age, and physical and mental ability. Parents and family members who have children with special needs include: single moms and dads, teen parents, parents with disabilities, foster parents, grandparents, blended families, families who are homeless, immigrant and refugee families...and the list goes on. In addition, societal changes present new challenges; today's society is highly mobile and the extended family structures no longer fulfill their traditional functions.

It is our intention that these suggestions, reflecting many perspectives, will further ICCs and other organizations in their efforts to ensure that multiple, diverse perspectives are represented at all levels of care and program and policy development.

The recommendations and strategies are categorized as follows:

- 1). **Organizational Strategies:** Steps are taken to ensure that family members participate in the development of policy and procedures that promote inclusion, mutual respect and acceptance of diverse individuals, while re-

flecting their contributions in the ICCs mission, operation and state/local service delivery system.

2). **Strategies to Empower Family Members:** A supportive and nurturing environment encourages character development, increased self-esteem and development of leadership abilities, and expands the organization's knowledge base of individualized family-centered recruitment practices.

3). **Logistical Strategies:** The ICC or organization promotes flexibility and encourages creativity by organizing and implementing a plan that delineates where and when to have meetings and the supports (such as provision of travel, translators, fees) necessary to allow the

participation of families who may require special accommodations.

4). **Process:** Ongoing self-assessment strategies are used to evaluate what is working and to identify the mentoring/orientation activities needed to effectively support and maintain the participation of family members from all types of families and at all levels of participation.

On behalf of all children with special needs and their families, the author and contributors to this article hope this information will be useful to ICCs and other organizations as they work along side of families to meet these many challenges.

## Organizational Strategies

- Foster an organizational culture that understands the richness of diversity and what it offers to your organization.
- Recognize family members as assets, not as tokens.
- Ensure that discussions of service systems are meaningful to families by including representatives from agencies that serve families (e.g., social security, health and social services).
- Identify the underrepresented groups within the communities being served and ask: What are we doing with these families? What can we do to assist these family members? Are they really hard to reach or do we need to acquire new skills to reach them? Who is responsible for recruiting diverse family members?
- Recognize barriers that inhibit diverse family participation as support issues that need to be customized.
- Identify and learn from community programs which provide effective services for diverse families.
- Enlist a variety of supports because people are from different socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Even the playing field for family members by compensating them and supporting their participation.
- Encourage the Governor's office to assign Inter-agency Coordinating Council (ICC) parent members quickly.
- Invite family members to serve as community representatives or service providers.
- Evaluate personnel needs from a provider's and from a family member's perspective.
- Collaborate with established community leaders.
- Hire more bilingual service providers.

## Strategies to Empower Family Members

- Identify individuals from local communities and support and nurture their growth as contributors and advocates.
- Provide leadership training for family members.
- Train providers to work with family members and families; include family members as trainers.
- Consider as appropriate the benefits of one-on-one and/or parent-to-parent support for family members.
- Tailor written materials to meet the needs of the readers such as translations into languages other than English, writing in easy to understand language, use of braille and other formats, and provide interpreters as needed at meetings.
- Hold focus groups on aspects of family-centered care, such as family rights, the IFSP/IEP process since some ICCs are birth through five, collaboration with professionals, and ways to support family participation in policy and program development.
- Explain the implications of policy issues so that family members understand their impact and can respond to them.
- Help family members share their stories at meetings and in the media so that they have the desired strategic impact.
- Ask individual family members to share successful strategies they have used to meet challenges and discuss how these strategies might be most valuable to the group.

- Acknowledge the contributions family members have made and help them recognize the difference they can make in the future. Discuss and celebrate contributions and successes.
- Make it easy for family members to learn who the players are, what their roles are in the system, and how they fit into the scheme of things.
- Encourage monolingual family members to learn English, and provide them with materials that are translated into their language, beginning with information on their child's diagnosis.
- Implement mentor programs or buddy systems for family members new to a program, council committee, or activity.
- Invest in family members as experts and leaders by supporting their participation at conferences and

workshops where they can acquire information and develop new skills.

- Explore family support resources, such as respite care options, and share this information with family members.
- Develop family and professional mentor programs.
- Providers and family representatives should assist parents in sharing their stories at meetings in strategic ways.
- Develop and disseminate multilingual publications.
- Encourage family members to access Parent Training & Information (PTI) centers and local Family Resource Centers.<sup>1</sup>
- Encourage family members to participate in Partners in Policy Making Leadership Training in their state.<sup>2</sup>

## Logistical Strategies

- Hold meetings at community centers, HeadStart sites, the YMCA or YWCA, churches, recreation and parks buildings, and other community-based facilities.
- Develop innovative strategies to help families overcome transportation barriers. For example, one state has rented a car for a family member to attend bimonthly meetings.
- Obtain a waiver that allows family members who receive public assistance to obtain consultant fees from Part H without affecting their income.
- Evaluate child care and reimbursement issues. Is

money the issue, or is a competent caregiver needed?

- Make sure that meetings start and finish on time.
- Develop opportunities for ICC families to meet around activities for children, e.g. at a picnic, at a resource fair.
- Provide child care at meetings.
- Give family members an advance instead of reimbursing them for their expenses after they attend a meeting or conference.
- Hire regional family advocates.

## Process Strategies

- Use alternative methods of evaluating parent meetings, such as focus groups or sacred circles.
- Identify the resources and strategies needed to enable and encourage family participation.
- Ensure that each individual's participation is a positive and meaningful experience.
- Schedule meetings so that working family members can attend.
- Extend invitations to fathers and significant others.
- Learn about the diverse groups in your communities, be patient and nonjudgmental, and avoid stereotyping.
- Increase personal contacts with family members;

for example, follow up meetings with telephone calls and thank-you letters.

- Audit your organization's practices and evaluate how you conduct business:
  - a. Identify your mission and values and determine if families share them.
  - b. Planning/Clarification – What is family centered? What is family/professional collaboration?
  - c. Audit what you do together. Are you walking the talk?
- Build an educational component into every meeting.

<sup>1</sup> For more information about the PTI in a particular state, readers may contact the TAPP Project at the Federation for Children with Special Needs, 95 Berkeley Street, Suite 104, Boston, MA 02116. (617) 482-2915.

<sup>2</sup> For more information, contact their State Council on Developmental Disabilities or the Minnesota Governors Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities at (612) 296-4018 or (612) 296-6962 (TDD).

- Ensure that family members feel valued at meetings.
- Encourage service providers to reach out to family members.
- Provide stipends to family members in a timely manner.
- Appreciate the diversity among individuals and recognize that parent support groups are not for every family member.
- Provide family members with incentives and options that encourage their participation.
- Focus meetings on parenting, child, and community issues, instead of primarily on disabilities.
- Increase family member participation by advertising that meetings are for family members who have children with special health needs (versus disabilities). Many family members see their child's special need differently than others.
- Evaluate what it takes to recruit an individual family member.
- Identify generic problems in recruiting particular groups of people, such as senior citizens, foster

parents, and family members with disabilities. Problem areas to assess include:

- Number of hours spent at meetings;
  - Time spent getting to and from the meeting;
  - Transportation barriers;
  - Scheduling of the meeting; and,
  - Safety and accessibility issues.
- Develop meeting minutes in the form of an action plan with next steps specified.
  - Find out and build on family member's needs, concerns, expectations, hopes, and strengths.
  - Send family members a personalized recruitment letter that identifies your organization's mission and goals.
  - Evaluate how to sustain the interests of family members, particularly as their children grow and changes occur.
  - When family members express an interest to participate, follow-up quickly.
  - Work with tribes and various tracking teams on reservations.

## ANNOUNCING

### TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS SERVING ON STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCILS

#### MENTORING

peer consultation and advice from parents and professionals

#### TRAINING

correspondence courses on ICC and early intervention topics and leadership skills

#### TELEPHONE CONSULTATION

a toll-free number for ICC parents for information, consultation and referral

#### ANNUAL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

for teams of ICC parents from selected states

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NATIONAL INFORMATION CENTER FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
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## Parents Helping Parents and Other Parent Support Activities

As the parent of a handicapped child, you are part of a group that includes millions of mothers and fathers across the United States. Like you, these parents want the best education and the best life for their children. Most of these parents have become quite involved in making sure that these things happen.

Parents have always played a vital role in the establishment of programs for their children. Parents founded such major national organizations as the Association for Retarded Citizens and the Easter Seal Society. Parents' efforts contributed largely to the passage in 1975 of Public Law 94-142 (The Education for All Handicapped Children Act). And parents like you, in thousands of communities, participate in groups that continue to make possible a better life for handicapped individuals and their families.

Parent groups have several functions: direct services for children; mutual support; training; advocacy; and communication.

### Direct Services for Children

Parents who have seen the need for certain educational or other services have created and operated programs that provide these services for children with handicaps. They have hired teachers and other professionals, arranged for facilities and financing, and set policy for the programs. When The Education for All Handicapped Children Act became law, the public schools began to provide services that had until then been available mainly through parent efforts.

Some parent-operated programs continue to fill gaps in the spectrum of services provided to children and youth. For example, in some communities parents have established day care centers for very young children with handicaps. Elsewhere parents have spearheaded arrangements for community living so that young adults with handicaps can live independently. Parents have been the catalysts to begin respite services, recreational programs, and other needed supports for families. In these and other ways, parents can make a powerful difference in designing, operating, and monitoring programs and services for their handicapped sons and daughters.

### Mutual Support

When people share common experiences and feelings, they give each other emotional and intellectual support.

When parents join together in groups, they find:

- Acceptance, friendship, compassion, and understanding
- New approaches to solving problems;
- Practical ideas for action and for working with their children;
- An awareness of common needs and common strengths;
- Greater self-understanding and insight;
- Reactions and advice from others who share their situations;
- Opportunities to express their emotions; and
- Meaningful relationships with other parents and less isolation in bringing up a handicapped child.

Being a parent is a complicated and demanding responsibility. Being the parent of a handicapped child is even more complex and demanding. The presence of a child with a handicap may affect family life and change relationships between mothers and fathers and other members of the family. Some parents say they especially need emotional strength at certain milestones in their children's lives (such as the time of the initial diagnosis, the child's first day of school, and the time when parents begin to consider the maturing child's employment possibilities). Sharing experiences and feelings with other parents, and mutually supporting one another, can be an important value of a parent group.

### Parent Training

The average parent is not prepared to meet the needs of a child with handicapping conditions. Normally, parenting any child is a challenge. When you add the dimension of special needs, it is often difficult for parents to feel adequate in their parenting skills. At all ages and stages of a child's life, there is a need for the expansion of the parent's skills. Parent training may take many forms. During the early years of a child's life, parents focus on early learning, acquisition of self-help skills, and discipline. Later, parent training needs are adapted to the child's growth and development. Parents learn in one-to-one situations with medical personnel and educators in the early years. Other opportunities are in group situations. Group learning has the added benefit of peer interaction. This provides an opportunity for mutual support and understanding.

Many parents constantly add to their education by reading and reviewing pertinent information. Parents learn many skills from one another in various parent interactions. Others seek formal education in higher education classes. Whatever the form of training, view the process as an ongoing opportunity to prepare you to feel competent as your child's most important teacher.

### **Advocacy**

As advocates, parents stand up for their children's rights and opportunities. There is a significant and continuing role to play in ensuring a free, appropriate public education and other rights for children with handicaps. The history of improved services for children with handicaps has demonstrated what can be achieved when parents act together with other advocates for the handicapped. Several parent coalitions (listed at the end of this article) inform parents of their rights and help them to communicate effectively with the professionals involved in their children's lives. Others train parents on how to be advocates for their children. All are excellent sources of information on programs and services for the handicapped. These coalitions operate with the support of Federal funds, local funds, private contributions, or combinations of these resources.

A national agency, the Children's Defense Fund (122 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001) provides information about advocacy and operates a toll-free information line on the latest public policy and regulations affecting children. (Call 800/424-9602.)

### **Communication**

Parent groups may provide information at meetings and seminars, and in newsletters and other publications. Many also operate telephone hot lines, and all make it possible for parents to share their own information resources. Thus, parents can find out what they need to know from the implications of Congressional actions to specific suggestions for child management.

### **Where to Get in Touch**

Three parent groups that were started at the grassroots level and now have many local chapters are Parentele, Pilot Parents, and the National Parent CHAIN. Each of them involves parents of children with any type and severity of handicap.

### **Parentele: An Alliance of Parents and Friends Networking for Those With Special Needs**

Parentele grew out of parents' needs to communicate with each other and work together to meet the needs of their sons and daughters. The organization has representatives in each state, and its Board has adopted these statements of their philosophy:

- We believe that persons with handicaps are valued, developing human beings with the potential to grow and contribute to society;
- We believe that parents are the key to developing these potentials;
- We believe exchange of information provides support and assistance to parents;

- We believe in parents' promotion, advocacy, and monitoring efforts;
- We believe the expertise unique to parents makes a valuable contribution;
- We believe in a national linkage to strengthen and encourage parents.

For more information, write to: Elaine Clearfield, 310 South Jersey Street, Denver, CO 80224.

### **Pilot Parents**

A group of parents of mentally retarded children started Pilot Parents in Omaha, Nebraska, in 1971. In 1974 the organization expanded to include parents of children with any handicap. Pilot Parents groups train parents to help other parents of handicapped children in times of special need, such as at initial diagnosis. For more information on finding or starting a Pilot Parents group in your area, contact Brenda Sutton, Omaha Association for Retarded Citizens, 3610 Dodge, Omaha, NE 68131.

### **National Parent CHAIN: Coalition of Handicapped Americans Information Network**

National Parent CHAIN is a recent effort to unite parent and parent/professional groups across the country. Its major goals are:

- To link existing parent coalitions, alliances, and other groups for information sharing purposes;
- To disseminate timely information electronically;
- To serve as a communications link between the States and the Federal government; and
- To affect State and public policy regarding the handicapped.

For more information, write to: National Parent CHAIN, 515 West Giles Lane, Peoria, IL 61614.

### **Specific Disability Groups**

The National Information Center for Handicapped Children and Youth has information about national organizations and other parent groups. The addresses of national organizations are listed on the Fact Sheets on Specific Handicaps. State chapters of many organizations are shown on the accompanying State Sheets. The State offices have information about chapters even closer to you, which you can obtain by writing or calling them. The National Information Center for Handicapped Children and Youth has information about parent groups that serve parents of children with rare syndromes and also unaffiliated local parent support groups. For these names and addresses, contact us directly at Post Office Box 1492, Washington, DC 20013.

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**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  
ON  
HEATHER M. HEBDON**

Heather M. Hebdon is a recognized leader in her chosen field in working with families and children who have disabilities. As both a person with disabilities, having diabetes, and the parent of two sons with disabilities, she has based her career on the philosophy that all individuals are vital to a healthy community. She firmly believes that persons with disabilities must not only be afforded, but have an inalienable right to independence, self-determination, opportunities for employment and inclusion in all aspects of community life. She has taken this belief into all the activities she does. She is the Director of a federally funded Parent Training and Information Center that serves military families worldwide who have children with disabilities. She also directs a State funded project, in Washington State, that works with families who have children with mental health issues. The project helps identify parent leaders in diverse communities throughout the state of Washington and helps them develop work plans that address community identified needs for children with mental health concerns. She currently chairs the Washington State Special Education Coalition, a coalition of parent and professional organizations committed to working together to insure appropriate and inclusive services for children who receive special education support, and serves on the State IDEA Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). Recognized as a national speaker, she has presented at local, state and National Conferences, as well as at military conferences overseas. She has been recognized for her leadership in working on Legislative Issues that impact on persons with disabilities at both the State and National Level, and currently serves as the chairperson of the Legislative sub-committee of the National Parent Network on Disabilities (NPND).

She has receiving numerous awards for her efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities from organizations like the Philippine Independence Committee, the Pierce County Parent Coalition of Developmental Disabilities, the Wahiawa Hawaii Mental Health Advisory Board, and the ACS Parent/Professional Intervention Association.

Mrs. Hebdon has had articles published in numerous newsletters and magazines that address a variety of topics of concern to families and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, she has served on a joint Maternal and Child Health/Department of Defense Task Force to address access to medical services for military family members who are disabled.

Her knowledge and experience provide her with a unique perspective on disability issues.