



Cayuga Centers' Parent Partner Program uses a strength-based, trauma-informed approach to engage and support families as they navigate family crises and involvement with one or more systems of care. Our Parent Partners utilize their lived experience to support and mentor the families they work with.

Core Components

- Provide outreach and inform the family's decision-making and planning process
- Assist families with navigating one or more agencies with which they are involved
- Partner with parents to identify areas of concern and provide education around access to community resources
- Help families follow through with connections and linkages to informal and formal supports
- Provide support and advocacy for families during Family Team Meetings, Family Court hearings and other engagements, as needed
- Work in coordination with Probation Officers, school officials and other community members in the coordination of services
- Facilitate individual and group support meetings to all participating family members
- Assist families with obtaining transportation needed for the family to receive Parent Partner services, as well as for Family Team Meetings, Family Court hearings and other appointments, as needed

Program Goals

The primary goal is to partner with parents who have children engaging in truancy, running-away, delinquency and other PINS (Person in Need of Supervision) behaviors. The Parent Partner will provide outreach and support to families to reduce the need for higher levels of care including court involvement and possible placement.

- Prevent out-of-home placement
- Expand a family's natural community supports
- Strengthen and support a family's ability to understand and consistently engage with multiple systems of care

The Parent Partner's Role

A Parent Partner has lived experience similar to the families with whom they work. They bring perspective and context to their interactions and support of the family, through the delivery of services within the home and/or community. The Parent Partner's role is to:

- Make contact with the family within 24 hours of referral
- Schedule first meeting within 48 hours of the referral with the family
- Provide empathy, support, encouragement, education, and advocacy to navigate multiple systems of care
- Utilize the Homebuilders Model which incorporates a family systems perspective as an opportunity for significant change
- Utilize Trauma Systems Therapy (TST) to understand multiple sources of trauma
- Consistently meet with families weekly to promote change and successful outcomes
- Work in close collaboration with the county, other community services, and the family
- Facilitate monthly parent support group sessions