



Invest in Parent to Parent Network

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Who is working on this issue?

The Arc of Washington and chapters

Advocacy areas

Community services and supports

What is the problem you are trying to solve?

Parent to Parent (P2P) is growing and needs funding to meet ongoing and diverse needs of Washington families raising children with developmental disabilities and complex health conditions – including multicultural families and families whose first language is not English.

This network of 27 programs serves every county in Washington state. In five years, P2P has nearly quadrupled the number of connections for support and information for families, reaching more than 77,000 in 2022–23. It is a trusted resource within the family's community, providing:

- Early outreach, support and education to parents and caregivers who have a child with complex health or developmental needs
- Parent matches between trained volunteers and new parents who have children with similar health needs
- Tools and resources for parents to be successful as they learn about the support and advocacy needs of their child and family



What is your proposed solution?

Funding proviso to support ongoing Parent to Parent operations, including costs for expanded outreach and program delivery to multi-cultural families and families whose first language is not English.

Why is this a good solution?



Parent to Parent SAVES the state money. By using a trusted peer network to provide emotional support, information, and LOCAL connection with other families, it helps families learn about and access resources while decreasing feelings of isolation.

Additional funding will stabilize programs. Some programs, especially those serving rural communities, are faced with decisions to reduce Parent to Parent staff time and/or family support programming due to budget shortfalls.

Research has found the following results from parent support and parent matching activities:

- Gains in parental cognitive adaptation to disability/acceptance of disability
- Improved coping skills for child and family situations
- Improved progress in meeting the primary need about which they were concerned at first contact with Parent to Parent
- Improved feelings of self-efficacy and competence
- Increased sense of belonging and being valued by a social group

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What is the fiscal impact?	Is there a bill number?	Is there a legislator working on this issue?
\$300,000 proviso request	Will be part of operating budget	Not yet