

Research Highlights

Topic: Parent to Parent

Santelli, B., Turnbull, A., Marquis, J., & Lerner, E. (2000). Statewide parent to parent programs: Partners in early intervention. *Infants & Young Children*, 13(1), 74-88.

BOTTOM LINE

Based on interviews with 21 statewide programs, a wide variety of statewide approaches were documented. In some states, the statewide Parent to Parent program is centralized, with all referrals, matching, follow-up support for the matches, and training for supporting parents happening out of the state office. In other states, the statewide Parent to Parent program is decentralized and provides resources and technical assistance through a network of autonomous local programs. No two statewide Parent to Parent programs are exactly alike, and there is no one right way to develop a program.

TIPS

- Use the information from this article to learn how statewide programs are being implemented nationally as a guide to how you may want to implement a program in your own state.
- Use the vast information in [Developing and Expanding a Statewide Parent to Parent Program](#) to learn more about organizational models, program leadership, sponsorship, roles and responsibilities, funding considerations, and program success stories.
- Use the information in the [Statewide Parent to Parent Program Digest](#) to learn detailed information on each Parent to Parent statewide program.

KEY FINDINGS

- Statewide Parent to Parent programs vary in their organizational model. Some states use a highly centralized model with the statewide program providing all Parent to Parent services, whereas other states are highly decentralized with local programs carrying out the program activities. Most statewide programs fall somewhere in between a highly centralized and completely decentralized program model.
- More than 75% of the programs report an annual budget of more than \$100,000.
- Statewide Parent to Parent programs partner with a wide variety of other agencies, especially Departments of Health, Part C programs, state disability organizations, and hospitals.
- Approximately three-fourths of the statewide programs offer training for veteran parents and in slightly less than half of the statewide programs local program coordinators provide training.
- Almost three-fourths of the statewide programs reported that matches are made at the statewide level, about two-thirds make matches at the regional level, and slightly less than half make matches at the local level.
- Statewide programs provide a broad range of technical assistance to local coordinators including creating brochures and promotional literature, providing information on program development/operation, providing a program development manual for program coordinators, and providing administrative support to help with mailings.

METHOD

- Through contact with statewide program directors and emerging statewide programs, 21 statewide programs expressed interest in participating in the survey.
- A written survey was mailed to program directors who returned the survey to the Beach Center.
- After the first survey was completed, statewide Parent to Parent program directors distributed a survey to local programs in their states.
- 37 coordinators of local programs in 12 states returning surveys.

RELATED
PUBLICATIONS

- Santelli, B., Turnbull, A., Marquis, J., & Lerner, E. (1995). Parent to Parent programs: A unique form of mutual support. *Infants and Young Children, 8*(2), 48-57.
- Santelli, B., Turnbull, A., Sergeant, J., Marquis, J.G., & Lerner, E.P. (1996). Parent to Parent programs: Parent preferences for supports. *Infants and Young Children, 9*(1), 53-62.
- Santelli, B., Turnbull, A.P., Marquis, J.G., & Lerner, E. (1997). Parent to Parent Programs: A resource for parents and professionals. *Journal of Early Intervention, 21*(1), 73-83.
- Santelli, B., Singer, G.H.S., DiVenere, N., Ginsberg, C., & Powers, L.E. (1998). Participatory action research: Reflections on critical incidents in a PAR project. *The Journal of The Association for Persons with Severe Handicaps, 23*(3), 211-222.
- Singer, G., Marquis, J.G., Powers, L.K., Blanchard, L., DiVenere, N., Santelli, B., Ainbinder, J., & Sharp, M. (1999). A multi-site evaluation of Parent to Parent programs for parents of children with disabilities. *Journal of Early Intervention, 22*(3), 217-229.
- Santelli, B. (2002). *Statewide Parent to Parent program digest*. Lawrence, KS: Beach Center on Disability.

This research was conducted in collaboration with the Beach Center on Disability. It was funded by the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Families of Children with Disabilities of the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation and Research (H133B980050) and private endowments. For more information, contact the Beach Center on Disability at 1200 Sunnyside Avenue, 3111 Haworth Hall, The University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS 66045-7534. Phone: 785-864-7600. Email: Beachcenter@ku.edu. Website: www.beachcenter.org.

Permission granted to reproduce and distribute this research brief.
Please credit the Beach Center on Disability.