

PROTECT Washington State P2P

For over 45 years, Washington State Parent to Parent (P2P) has provided vital <u>peer support and information</u> to families raising children with disabilities and/or special health care needs. Support and programming is available in every Washington state county and program coordinators are parents or family members caring for children/individuals with disabilities. Program funding is provided by Washington State Developmental Disabilities Community Services, Washington State Department of Health/Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, local County Developmental Disability programs, and other local and state partners.

Per Washington State legislative statute (HB 2394, established into Washington State Law in 2016), each program provides:

- Early outreach, support and education to parents and caregivers who have a child with special health or developmental needs
- Matching of a trained volunteer support parent with a new parent who has a child with similar needs (as the support parent)
- Tools and resources for parents to be successful as they learn about the support and advocacy needs
 of their child and family

Washington State Parent to Parent provided the following during the **2024-2025** fiscal year:

- 83,212 calls/emails/connections for assistance
- 6,708 calls/emails/connections for assistance with parents who speak a language other than English
- 963 trained parent volunteers (Helping Parents)
- 670 parent support matches
- 47,507 parents and professionals on mailing lists
- **38,540** Social Media followers
- **50+ Coordinators** (serving every Washington State county)
- 15 programs offering multicultural support/service (Latino, African American)

From parents, caregivers and community professionals:

'This program has been extremely valuable to us. Being able to talk to and learn from the experiences of other families who have been down this path before has really helped us understand what we can expect from the various services available and what I can do now to help set our daughter up to live as fulfilling a life as possible given her disability'.

'I appreciate the encouragement and helpful advice to empower both my son and myself. It can be overwhelming at times, so it's incredibly valuable when people and parents come together to support each other...'

'I am a Child Health and Education Tracking Specialist for DCYF and appreciate all the information I get from them (P2P) about services available to families we see and serve. Keep up the good work. I send this (Parent to Parent newsletter) to all of our staff in the western end of Region 2'.

Washington State Parent to Parent (P2P)

The Arc of Washington State

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