

We Believe

- Families are resilient and resourceful
- Family driven and youth guided practices are essential for our wellness
- Strength-based practices should be sensitive to each family's culture and needs
- Services should be individualized and community-based
- Our lived experience gives us a unique expertise

“Nothing about us
without us”

Our Goals

- Empower families and young people to be leaders and self-advocates
- Expand peer support services across all systems
- Mobilize a unified voice to shape public policies that impact families
- Eliminate discrimination and stigma
- Promote effective coordination and collaboration between systems

Families Together in New York State

Empowering Families.
Coordinating Systems.

📍 737 Madison Avenue, Albany, NY 12208
🌐 www.ftnys.org 📞 (518) 432-0333

Our toll-free Information and Referral Line and Email serves thousands of family members and providers each year. We have access to extensive resources across New York State providing families with the information they need.

Toll-free Information and Referral
📞 (888) 326-8744 ✉ info@ftnys.org

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Who We Are

Families Together in New York State is a family-run organization that represents families of children with social, emotional, behavioral and cross-systems challenges. Driven by our lived experience, our goal is to ensure that ALL families and youth have the support they need in order to succeed.

Through public policy and coordinating systems, we represent thousands of families from across the state whose children have been involved in many systems including mental health, addiction, special education, juvenile justice and foster care. Our board and staff are made up primarily of family members and youth who have navigated these systems.

What We Do

Advocacy & Public Policy

Families Together works to mobilize our statewide network of impacted families and young people to advocate for legislative and systems change. Our priorities are created by families and young people through focus groups, interviews, coalition meetings and surveys. We represent the family voice through engagement with policy makers, public testimony, press engagement, task forces, public awareness campaigns and events.

Training & Workforce Development

Families Together strengthens and supports the peer advocate workforce for families and youth across New York State. We administer the required credentials for the Family Peer Advocates (FPA) and Youth Peer Advocates (YPA). We also provide necessary peer advocate trainings across multiple systems to expand the overall reach of peer services.

Outreach & Education

- Host an annual conference for families and youth
- Organize and facilitate University of Youth Power
- Educate families and youth to navigate the children's service systems
- Empower families and youth to participate in the treatment planning process
- Connect families and youth to peer support providers in their local community
- Develop and share resources for families and service providers
- Link families to Parent Advisors and Regional Youth Partners

YOUTH POWER!

YOUTH POWER! is our statewide network that is run for and by youth and young adults. We work to ensure the availability of peer support and that young people have meaningful involvement on all levels of the services they receive. Through persistent advocacy, technical assistance, training and education opportunities, we amplify the voices of young people and ensure that systems and supports are youth-guided.

Technical Assistance

- Provide education, training and TA to family support organizations on grass-roots organizing and sustainability strategies
- Advise state agencies and government entities on effective family engagement and the value of peer support
- Support programs to navigate evolving healthcare policies and practices

