



Guidelines for Becoming a Family to Family Network

Some facts about the Utah Family to Family Network:

The Family to Family Network is a statewide volunteer organization that provides information, education and support to families with family members that have disabilities. The Network is not disability specific, but supports individuals/families dealing with many types of disabilities.

Local Network groups are directed by volunteer parent/family member Leaders who serve as a resource for other parents/family members in their vicinity. The goal is to help families' access services and programs that will help them meet the challenges of supporting family members with special needs.

Network Leaders should be receiving services, on the waiting list, or in the process of determining eligibility with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities. This allows Leaders to be a resource for individuals and families using these services as well as for other organizations. A Co-Leader or other Network Officer is not required to meet these criteria.

Family to Family Network Leaders:

1. **Give information to families.** This can be done in a variety of ways: through educational meetings, email, one-on-one mentoring, meaningful activities and/or other means.
2. **Represent the Networks to others.** Consulting with other Network Leaders, engaging in community disability-related events, and participating on disability-related boards and committees are ways to represent the Networks.
3. **Become familiar with the agencies that serve individuals with disabilities.** One of the best ways to access useful information to pass along to families is to associate yourself with other disability-related organizations. Network staff will assist Leaders with becoming acquainted and partnering with organizations to help meet the needs of the families being served.
4. **Abide by the Network Policies and Procedures.** Because Leaders represent the Family to Family Network and the Utah Parent Center, they will be asked to follow guidelines, which include being respectful of others, maintaining confidentiality, reporting on activities, etc.
5. **Access funding.** The Family to Family Networks may qualify for a small amount of funding to cover the expenses incurred when performing Network business.

To become a Family to Family Network:

Simply send a letter to the Utah Parent Center explaining:

- Who you are
- A little about your family member with disabilities
- What your experiences have been as a leader
- A brief description of your knowledge and experience with the Division of Services for People with Disabilities
- An indication of how the Network and/or UPC could help support you to be successful as a leader.

The letter will be given to the Family to Family Network Advisory Council for approval. You will be notified of the Council's decision. This process may take several months to complete.