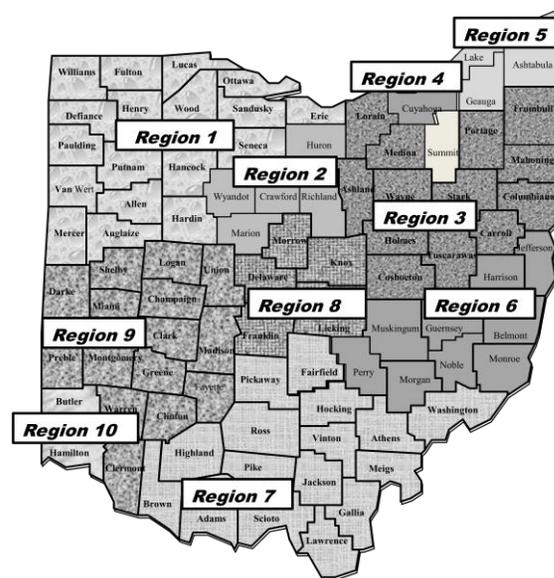


## HOW CAN PAC HELP MY FAMILY?

- By attending meetings with families such as: school, court hearings, case reviews, and all team meetings
- Helping parents share information with professionals that only parents can provide from living with, and relating to, their children
- Listening to families talk about what they need and what they are concerned about
- Encouraging parents' natural ability to speak up for their children and families
- Being there for parents so they do not feel alone when facing difficult times with their children

**Parent Advocacy Connection is free to families involved in Service Coordination.**



**Parent  
Advocacy  
Connection**

**Empowering Ohio's Families**

It is the mission of the Parent Advocacy Connection to empower, educate, encourage, and equip families to partner with professionals in promoting access to services that are family-centered and driven, community-based, comprehensive, and culturally competent.



## THE PAC DIFFERENCE

**Parent Advocacy Connection** has a proven record of supporting families through crisis and helping them learn to advocate for their own children.

Since its beginning, PAC has been committed to helping families through crisis and equipping them to advocate for their children in future crisis. PAC advocates have helped thousands of Ohio families since its inception in 2004.

It is our belief that no parent should have to go it alone. Most of our advocates are parents themselves who know, first hand, how it feels to be scared, angry and lost. Most of our parents have been system involved. We support families through multiple systems—Juvenile Justice, Social Services, Education, Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities. And, we are trained to do it. Each advocate receives 70 hours of training in multiple systems each year.

PAC volunteer advocates must pass a background investigation check (BCI) every 2 years and are mentored by experienced advocates before working independently with families.

PAC adheres to strict boundaries and confidentiality agreements and has a complaint procedure in place to insure our high standards.

We do not represent children or act as surrogates for them—we help those who we believe are the foremost experts—parents—to become better advocates for their own children and to access services for their own families.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### How do parent advocates support families?

It is the mission of Parent Advocacy Connection to empower, educate, encourage and equip families to partner with community professionals to improve their access to needed services that are family-centered, community based and culturally competent

### Who can use this service?

Any family in Ohio who has a child or adolescent involved with the Family and Children First Council or families who receive Family Special Support dollar funding through their local Council can have an advocate. PAC has advocates in both urban and rural Counties throughout Ohio.

### Who are PAC Advocates?

We are highly trained parents and other adults in the community who have volunteered because of their desire to assist other families in learning how to advocate for their children with special needs.

### Who funds Parent Advocacy Connection?

PAC is administered by NAMI Ohio through a grant from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and the Department of Job and Family Services.

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