Act Early Ambassadors and Parent Centers: Collaborating to Promote Developmental Health of Young Children

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Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) provides discretionary funding to States, institutions of higher education, and non-profits to support the provision of early intervention and special education services.

IDEA funds a system of parent training and information centers and community parent resource centers (collectively “parent centers”) to help families navigate early intervention and special education systems.

IDEA also funds parent technical assistance centers (PTACs) to support parent centers in doing their job.
Parent Centers (PTIs, CPRCs)

- **63 PTIs** serve states or areas within states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands (IDEA Sec. 671)
- **23 CPRCs** serve targeted, underserved communities (IDEA Sec. 672)
- 5-year competitive grants
- Organizations with PTI or CPRC grants must be parent-led nonprofits; majority of the board of directors must be parents of children with disabilities
- Most organizations that have PTI or CPRC grants also have other Federal, State, or local grants
- Parent centers are well connected to States and communities
Parent Training and Information Centers & Community Parent Resource Centers

- Provide training and assistance to help parents:
  - Understand their children’s disabilities and their educational needs
  - Understand their rights and responsibilities under IDEA
  - Communicate effectively and work collaboratively with educators and service providers
  - Participate in their children’s education and early intervention services
  - Resolve disputes with schools

- Variety of services including one-on-one assistance, workshops, publications, and Web sites

- Must serve families of children who are suspected as having a disability

(IDEA Sec. 671, (b))
Parent Technical Assistance Centers

- Parent Technical Assistance Centers help parent centers
  - More effectively coordinate their parent training efforts;
  - Disseminate research and information;
  - Reach underserved populations, including parents of low-income and limited English proficient children with disabilities;
  - Provide many other supports to better serve families

- OSEP currently funds 9 PTACs
  - Center for Parent Information and Resources (National)
  - 6 Regional PTACs
  - Native American PTAC & Military PTAC (National)
Center for Parent Information & Resources

Supporting the Parent Centers Who Serve Families of Children with Disabilities

Featured Resource

Featured Parent Center

PEAK Parent Center
PEAK Parent Center works every day to ensure that all people with disabilities are fully included in their neighborhood schools, communities, employment, and all walks of life. A Parent Center founded in 1986, PEAK offers an array of free and low-cost services to families of children with disabilities and self-advocates across Colorado and beyond. Each year, PEAK directly reaches more than 45,000 families, youth with disabilities/self-advocates, and...
Thank You!

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