




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



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# Supporting Families Navigate Systems

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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)

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- ▶ **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

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- ▶ **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

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- ▶ **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

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*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

[www.parentcenterhub.org](http://www.parentcenterhub.org)

# Thank You!

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