

About Us

Since 1990, Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change (MFOFC) has been uniting families of individuals with disabilities to imagine better.

We are a statewide, grassroots coalition of families with children and adults who have disabilities and/or chronic illness. Together, we actively organize our talents and our experiences with the conviction that family and individual supports can be comprehensive, individualized, and flexible.

The mission of MFOFC is to provide sustained advocacy and leadership training in pursuit of high quality, individualized community support and service options, including family support, for people with disabilities and their families.

Our vision is one of empowerment for individual and family support that includes planning, choices and decision-making.



"I feel empowered, hopeful, and energized to make a difference for myself, my child, and others who have disabilities. The Family Leadership Series has changed my life."



To Learn More Contact:

West Regional Coordinator

Family Leadership Program

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(413) 782-2500 ext. 321

Applications & Information

Available Online:

massfamilies.org/training

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Multicultural Community Services
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Family Leadership Series



Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change

A grassroots coalition of individuals with disabilities and/or medical needs and their families.

West Region



Why is the "Series" Important?

The voices of families are a powerful tool for creating system-wide change. For nearly 30 years, the Series has helped develop family leaders to create positive change within their families, communities, and across the state.

Why Attend?

The Family Leadership Series provides:

- **Information** and tools to effectively advocate for change on behalf of your loved one(s) and others
- **Support** in developing the vision, knowledge, and leadership skills needed to support your family member in creating the life that they want in their community
- **Opportunities** to join with other families to share experiences and ideas

How the "Series" Works

The Series consists of three, two-day workshops for a group of 15-30 family members. Families are expected to participate in all sessions.

Overnight lodging and meals are provided. **Scholarships** may be available for respite and child care costs. Translation services are available upon request.

Topics Families Learn About:

Initiative & Leadership:

Background of the Family Support Movement: leadership, advocacy, and the significance of self-advocacy. How to effectively advocate for change. Ways to influence funding and delivery systems.

Creating A Vision:

Families are supported to **imagine better** and create a vision with and for their family members that will guide their leadership and advocacy.

Policy-Making:

How to develop networks with professionals and families. How to use legislative change to procure resources and enact system-wide change.

Additionally, families learn strategies to decrease stress, develop support systems, and sustain momentum in caring and advocating for yourself and others.

What Our Graduates Say

"The Family Leadership Series was a total game-changer for me and had a tremendous positive ripple effect not only for my child with a disability, but also my entire family."

"Extraordinary, moving, touching and inspiring!"



"The Series instills constant hope in us as parents. It has inspired me to become more involved with my child and my community."

"In the 18 years of living with our daughter, this was the first time we were 'treated' to a time to learn, relax, and regroup."

"I used to feel helpless, but since attending the series I now know I have a voice to help make a difference."