

The Parent Partner Program

What is a Parent Partner?

We are looking for parents who have gone through the tough time of having their child or children removed from their care by the Department of Human Services. These are parents who have stepped up to the plate and made the necessary steps to change their lives so that their children have been successfully returned to their home for at least one year.

The Parent Partner Program is a mentor program. The Parent Partner Coordinator will attempt to match you with a "parent" who is going through circumstances that are similar to the one's you have experienced. All "parents" in the program will currently have a children removed from the home. The program seeks out mentors like you because we value your life experience. We recognize that it has taught you a lot about both success and struggles.

Parent Partners are not there to fix another parent. They are not counselors. Parent Partners are a role model, a mentor, a resource and a support.

A Parent Partner will:

The Parent Partner will:

- Some have had personal experience with domestic violence, substance abuse, and or mental health issues.
- Work intensively with birth parents (parents of children in care) to promote engagement in case plan activities
- Help maintain connections between parents and children while in out of home care
- Share insight and understanding about their own personal experiences that may help the birth parents be successful in their own reunification efforts
- Assist in the goal of reunification and/or the development of appropriate alternative permanent plans
- Provide a sense of hope and inspiration to parents in the "system"
 - Connect parents with resources
 - Provide encouragement, outreach and support
- Work with Parent Partner team (Parent Partner coordinator, child welfare case worker, planning committees)

How much of a Parent Partners time will this commitment require?

The Parent Partner Program is asking for at least a one-year commitment to mentor at least two families.

We need Parent Partners who will commit to working with a family for a **minimum of 7-10 hours a month.**

The Parent Partner Program provides training, support, and ongoing education for Parent Partners.

- Building a Better Future (BABF) training
- Domestic Violence (DV) 101 training
- Mental Health overview training
- Family Team Meeting (FTM) overview
- Cultural Competency
- Substance Abuse training
- Mandatory Reporting Training
- Boundaries and Safety issues Training
- DHS 101 training

Parent Partners will also meet with the Parent Partner Coordinator weekly for supervision to discuss ongoing issues and case concerns. Clinical Supervision will be provided for Parent partner on at least a monthly basis for clinical issues that arise in the provision of services. This will be in a group setting. Individual consultation can be set up as needed.