What Does National Certification Do?

- Builds credibility for parent-to-parent support services
- Promotes ethical practice
- Defines a uniform standard and title
- Establishes competency measures
- Promotes Parent Support as a profession
- Creates a portable credential

For more information about the availability of Parent Support provider resources in your community, please visit www.certification.ffcmh.org or call 240-406-1472.
What is a Parent Support

A Parent Support Provider (CPSP) is a person who has experience parenting a child with emotional, behavioral, developmental, substance use, or mental health challenges AND who has specialized training to assist other parents to understand children’s emotional health development and continuing wellness.

A Parent Support Provider is dedicated to teaching and mentoring family members to be effective advocates for their own child/youth and family, to be equal partners with service providers to reach the goals set by families, and strive to eliminate stigma and discrimination.

Eligibility Criteria for National Certification Includes:

- Experience parenting a child with emotional, behavioral, developmental, substance use, or mental health challenges
- 8 contact hours of training in each of the 11 competency domains
- 1000 hours of experience performing parent support tasks
- Agreement to abide by the Code of Ethics and on-going supervision
- A passing score on the national exam

Recertification is required every two years.

Is This a Career?

Parent Support Providers are currently employed in health, education, social services, private providers, and all levels of government.

Parent Support Providers are change agents by:

- Increasing the voice of all family members (children, youth, youth transitioning to adults, and adults)
- Building partnerships between professionals and family members
- Promoting family-driven, youth-guided, and person-centered services

Medicaid and some insurance plans pay for this service.

Parent Support Providers is the umbrella term for a variety of titles such as: Parent Partner, Family Support Partner, Peer Navigator, Parent Connectors, Family Navigator, Parent Advocate, Family Advocate, and Peer Counselor. National certification unifies these titles.