



The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (NFFCMH), established in 1988, is the only national advocacy organization with a sole focus on children and youth who experience behavioral health challenges and their families. These children and youth often experience co-occurring, complex diagnoses and involvement across multiple child-serving systems. With over 125 chapters nationwide, NFFCMH provides a powerful voice across local, state, and national platforms.

In addition to providing resources, policy guidance, and technical assistance, NFFCMH has developed the only national certification for Parent/Family Peers. This certification has created a national standard for Parent/Family Peers. This innovative certification utilizes the lived experience and specialized training of caregivers to assist and empower families who are parenting children and youth experiencing behavioral health challenges. Currently, over 650 individuals have been nationally certified in approximately 35 states.

### **Mission**

The National Federation, a national family-run organization serves to:

- Provide advocacy at the national level for the rights of children and youth with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges and their families
- Provide leadership and technical assistance to a nation-wide network of family run organizations
- Collaborate with family run and other child serving organizations to transform mental health care in America

### **Vision**

Through a family and youth-driven approach, children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health challenges and their families obtain needed supports and services so that children grow up healthy and able to maximize their potential.

### **Principles**

The National Federation believes that all children and youth:

- Have strengths and make valuable contributions to their families.
- Are people first and deserve the same love, care, and attention as any other person.
- Have a right to safely participate in community life, live with their families, and attend school.
- Come from diverse backgrounds and must be treated with dignity and respect.
- Must receive all the services and supports necessary to achieve their potential.