



Who is the Parents & Guardians Sector?

The Parents & Guardians includes parents, guardians, caregivers, and family members. They help create stable and healthy homes.

Parents/Guardians play an important role in the lives of children and teens. They often notice problems early and help their families get support. Coalitions can work with parents/guardians to lift up their voices, reduce stigma, and help families find the care they need.

How can the Parents & Guardians support recovery?

Parents/Guardians can be strong leaders and partners in recovery. They have real-life experience and often help their children through different systems like schools and healthcare.

To make the biggest impact, parents/guardians and coalitions can:

- 📍 **Share their experiences:** Help design services that meet real family needs.
- 📍 **Speak up for families:** Support policies that keep families together and promote recovery.
- 📍 **Build support networks:** Create groups where parents/guardians can help and learn from each other.
- 📍 **Support early help:** Learn the signs of problems and help families get support sooner.
- 📍 **Reduce stigma:** Share stories that encourage others to ask for help.
- 📍 **Guide other families:** Help people understand and use available services.

How can coalitions work with the Parents & Guardians Sector?

- 📍 Include parents/guardians in planning and decision-making.
- 📍 Use parent/guardians feedback to improve services.
- 📍 Create family-focused programs that build trust.
- 📍 Support parent/guardian leaders and peer roles.
- 📍 Work together to find and fix gaps in services.
- 📍 Share messages that reduce stigma and promote hope.
- 📍 Give families the tools and information they need to stay involved.

“When parents are empowered, communities are strengthened, and youth are uplifted.”

Why Do Parents & Guardians Matter?

- 📍 Trusted voices in youth lives.
- 📍 Bridge between community and youth.
- 📍 Amplify program reach and sustainability.

Common Barriers to Engagement

- 📍 Time constraints.
- 📍 Lack of trust or previous negative experiences.
- 📍 Cultural and language barriers.
- 📍 Limited understanding of how to contribute.

Practical Engagement Strategies

1

Invite parents
early in the
planning stages

2

Offer flexible
participation
options

3

Create
welcoming,
judgment-free
environments

4

Translate
materials &
provide
childcare

Building Strong Collaborations

📍	Include parents/guardians in advisory roles or leadership teams
📍	Co-create programs with parents'/guardians' input
📍	Share data and decisions openly
📍	Celebrate parent/guardian contributions

Empowering Parents/Guardians as Leaders

Offer

Offer skill-building opportunities (public speaking, advocacy)

Provide

Provide leadership roles in projects or committees

Encourage

Encourage peer mentoring among parents

Questions To Consider

- 📍 What strategies have worked for you in engaging parents/guardians?
- 📍 What challenges do you face in partnering with parents/guardians?

Key Takeaways

- 📍 Parents/Guardians are essential partners, not optional add-ons.
- 📍 Engagement requires intention and flexibility.
- 📍 Empowered parents/guardians drive sustainable change.



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