Who is the Parents Sector?

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

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

How can the Parents Sector support recovery?

Parents 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 and ROSCs 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 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 ROSCs work with the Parents Sector?

- Include parents in planning and decision-making.
- Use parent feedback to improve services.
- Create family-focused programs that build trust.
- Support parent 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 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 in advisory roles or leadership teams.
Co-create programs with parents' input.
Share data and decisions openly.
Celebrate parent contributions.

Empowering Parents as Leaders



Questions to Consider

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

Key Takeaways

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