



# PARENTS

Families Assisting Families of Children With Disabilities

**\$500,000 for PARENTS, Inc. in Alaska for creation of a matching, mentoring, and home visit system to support parents of children with disabilities.**

Description: This project would create a collaborative system among numerous agencies and organizations in Alaska to match parents of children with disabilities to trained mentor parents who have been through it before themselves. These mentors have the skills necessary to help a parent through the problems that confront them in raising their children and can provide the social support they need for themselves.

Many Alaskan parents of children with disabilities, especially those in rural areas, are unable to find someone who shares the same issues and concerns as they do. This parent to mentor matching system creates a statewide database, connections with other mentors outside Alaska for rare disorders or problems, and recruits and trains mentors to ensure high quality.

Organizations that have stated that they wish to collaborate with us on such a project include the Governor's Council on Disabilities and Special Education, Alaska Department of Education and Early Development, Family Resource Project – University Affiliated Program/UAA, Programs for Infants and Children, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Center in the Bethel region, Center for Families in Fairbanks, and Resource Center for Parents and Children in Fairbanks.

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