

## Family and Community Support Program

The Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities' (BBHFF) purpose for creating the **Family and Community Support Program** throughout West Virginia is to assist individuals to live at home and in the community by identifying resources and aligning processes aimed at supporting persons with disabilities in integrated settings, with emphasis on individualizing and maximizing community resources. Many of the challenges and opportunities experienced by people seeking to live a life of quality in the community are common, regardless of disability. Individuals and families want and need information about resources, access to services and flexible funding to address emergency and/or extraordinary needs, and support from peers and professionals.

The Family and Community Support Program and Community Engagement Program's enhance the quality of life for individuals who live in home and community settings. Based on this common expectation, and in light of complex fiscal times, the BBHFF offers a newly envisioned Family and Community Support model to sustain and eventually grow support resources for individuals statewide. The model relies on a regional infrastructure of Family Support Councils, volunteer and staff engagement of families and resources, and a pool of flexible support funds and Community Engagement programming.

### **Goals for the Family and Community Support Program include:**

1. Strengthen the role of the Regional Family Support Councils. Beyond the distribution of stipends as a "fund of last resort," the Councils will expand their capacity for providing resource and other knowledge geared to help families learn about and navigate existing community-based and statewide services and resources.
2. Restructure the Regional Family Support Coordinator's role to enable networking with various stakeholders to gain and share knowledge of available resources, identify gaps, and promote development of resources.
3. Support the Community Engagement Specialists to help families develop a support plan and navigate the service system.
4. Support and empower families to make their own informed decisions, and become effective self-advocates.
5. Advise State and Regional Councils and the larger intellectual/developmental disabilities system about family issues to promote systems change.

### **Links**

[WV Family & Community Support Application](#)

[Regional Family & Community Support Policies and Guidelines](#)