



Oregon Consortium of Family Networks (OCFN)

Families building community; Creating futures

Family Networks are connected with more than 5,000 families and community partners in 4 areas of the state:

- Central Oregon Disability Support Network (CODSN) in Central Oregon
- Family and Community Together (FACT) in the Portland Tri-County area
- Families for Community in Southern Oregon
- Families Connected, The Arc Lane County in Eugene/Springfield

Why Family Networks?

OCFN believes that when parents connect with other parents who can share a vision of possibility, and help each other find strength, they break the cycle of loneliness and isolation for each other, and in turn, their children, changing their trajectory to one of empowerment and success.

OCFN Works in Three Ways:

1. By facilitating opportunities for parents to connect with other parents in a way that strengthens their sense of empowerment and the vision they have for their child's future in the community.
2. By thinking creatively to support families in accessing and creating opportunities and resources in their community.
3. By encouraging the community to expand its awareness of, and take action toward, the belief that a community embraces and engages with all families, it is a healthy, more vibrant, resource-rich community for all.

OCFN Core Values

- Support must help families find empowerment, not create greater dependence
- Empowerment is the catalyst for change
- Recognizing one's gifts and skills have value builds a sense of empowerment
- Families must expect their children with disabilities to be included, employed, interdependent members of their communities, just as they would children without disabilities
- Families and community members supporting each other is the cornerstone of community health
- Empowered families must intersect with empowered communities

What is OCFN?

We are a network of families building a sustainable future for families.

Background:

The Oregon Consortium of Family Networks, a project of the Oregon Council on Developmental Disabilities and the Office of Developmental Disability Services, is an association of family networks committed to a set of core values. Each member is an independent, family-led organization working in collaboration with community partners and each other.

This project began in recognition that families are the primary source of support throughout the lifespan of a person with IDD, and that supports must be provided to the family so that they have the capacity to do so. Supported families are more likely to be able to raise their children at home, envision their children as active community members, and raise children who become empowered, employed, interdependent adults.