

# OHIO COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOR SUPPORTING FAMILIES

## **What is the Supporting Families Community of Practice?**

In 2016, Ohio was awarded the opportunity to participate in the national CoP for Supporting Families and has joined other states in a multi-year effort to develop systems of support for families throughout the lifespan of their family member with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD). This CoP is unique in Ohio because it focuses on all families with a member with a disability, not just those who receive formal supports.

Ohio's CoP for Supporting Families creates policies, practices and systems to better assist and support families that include a member with I/DD across the lifespan. Ohio's CoP uses the Charting the LifeCourse framework and tools to bring a fresh approach to supporting families.

## **What is a Community of Practice?**

Ohio's CoP for Supporting Families connects a diverse group of people who share a passion for supporting families, stimulates learning about how to better support families, and introduces collaborative processes that help people organize around purposeful actions.

The goal of the Ohio CoP is to support families, with all of their complexity, strengths and unique abilities, so they can best support, nurture, love, and facilitate opportunities for the achievement of self-determination, interdependence, productivity, integration, and inclusion in all facets of community life for their family members

## **What is the Purpose of Ohio's Community of Practice?**

The purpose of Ohio's CoP for Supporting Families is to strengthen a cluster of statewide and local approaches that build family connections to other families across all life stages and phases. These approaches include:

- Building opportunities for web-based family connections
- Providing support to family organizations
- Offering Charting the LifeCourse framework to family members
- Strengthening families supporting families
- Creating opportunities for family leadership in building inclusive communities
- Encouraging family connections with other families in typical community places

## **How can I get involved with the Ohio CoP?**

Connect, learn, and contribute to Ohio's CoP for Supporting Families by participating in quarterly State CoP meetings, establishing a local CoP around what you and your community are passionate about or use the Charting the LifeCourse framework to help work towards a good life.

## **Where can I learn more?**

To find dates of State CoP meetings, information about Charting the LifeCourse framework, local events, to request local trainings, and more, visit the Family Resource Network of Ohio website at [www.FRNOhio.org](http://www.FRNOhio.org).