

Michigan Alliance for Families update

Who We Are

Michigan Alliance for Families is our state's federally funded [Parent Training and Information Center](#). We are a [Michigan Department of Education IDEA Grant Funded Initiative](#). The efforts of Michigan Alliance for Families align with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to help improve results for children with disabilities.

Each Michigan Alliance staff member is a parent or family member of an individual with disabilities who has first-hand experience with the aspects of the special education system. Every staff member is trained in listening, communicating, and problem-solving.

Families can connect directly to one of our Regional Parent Mentor. Parent Mentors live in the region they serve. They assist families in navigating the educational system, and they are knowledgeable about state and local resources. Parent Mentors support existing and emerging parent leaders involved with groups such as Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs), Parent Advisory Committees (PACs), the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), and the Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council (MICC).

What We Do

Michigan Alliance for Families provides printed, electronic, and multimedia information/resources, including information about Vocational Rehabilitation.

Michigan Alliance for Families staff are available to talk to parents and professionals about special education and related services, and disability specific information. Families of young adults and transition-age youth are referred to Vocational Rehabilitation.

- Information and Referral team reported 5,788 interactions with families and professionals via phone, email, and social media in program year 2023-2024.
- Regional Parent Mentors reported 5,510 interactions in program year 2023-2024.

Michigan Alliance for Families hosts relevant workshops across the state. All of our events and materials are free of charge to parents/ families.

- Michigan Alliance for Families had 215 scheduled workshops in program year 2023-2024, with 5,769 attendees.
- On-demand workshop videos on our YouTube channel had 17, 517 views.
- In 2024, new workshops for in-school youth, "My IEP" and "My Transition Plan," were launched in six high schools statewide.

Michigan Alliance for Families encourages and supports parents in leadership roles.

- Applications are now open for our Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA) 2025 cohort.
- Applications are now open for our Youth Summit in May 2025.

February 7, 2025