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## 2025 Legislative Session

### PURPOSE:

Funding for the Parents for Parents program (P4P)

### BUDGET REQUEST:

\$2.5 million/biennium Policy Level — Office of Public Defense

### ABOUT THE P4P PROGRAM:

P4P is a peer mentor, education, professional training, and family reunification program that serves parents and families navigating the child welfare system. P4P has been in state statute since 2015, serves most of Washington state, and has a current funding level of \$2.86 million/biennium.

### P4P's MAIN COMPONENTS:

- Early engagement
- Education classes
- Family reunification support provided by Parent Allies (PAs) who have successfully navigated the child welfare system

**79%**  
of parents who  
received the full  
P4P program reunified  
with their families!



**"Chronic underfunding has challenged the program's ability to sustain effective services in every county"**

*Office of Public Defense, November 2024*

**This funding request will help local P4P coordinators get closer to livable wages. This will allow the program to grow and retain staff who are lived experience experts.**

## CONTACT

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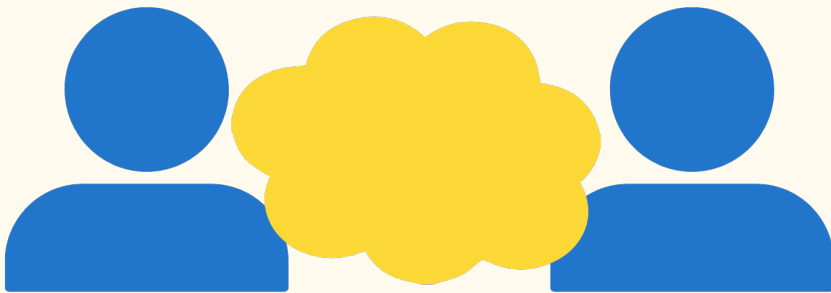


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### Value of the Parents for Parents program and its impact on the state of Washington:

- For each \$1 invested in the Parents for Parents program, government received \$3.22 in return through reduced expenditures
- P4P reduces the likelihood that parents' rights will be terminated; lowering the number of children in foster care is a broadly shared goal
- P4P positively shifts perception, educates parents, improves engagement in visits, services, and court hearing attendance
- Emotional and material support increases the likelihood of reunification and decreases termination of parental rights for families during critical and difficult times
- P4P empowers parents by providing education, training, and community resources to provide for their children's emotional and physical needs



**P4P successfully develops nearly  
20,000 documented, meaningful  
parent connections through the  
program each year!**



**"I see Parents  
for Parents as a  
guide toward  
healing"**

- Judge William A. Thorne, Jr.



**"Some things I learned  
from taking Dependency  
101 is that I am not alone  
and to take responsibility  
for my role in my situation"**

- Parent (March 2022)

### Audiences served by the P4P program:

- Parents and families have access to a diverse set of support and resources during entry into the child welfare court system, post-reunification and post-dependency stages including: education and training, community and family resources, professional development and opportunities for upward economic mobility
- Courts and professionals in the child welfare system benefit from working with educated, resourced, and engaged parents