

What is the Peer Care Network?

New Rise program launched in 2021

The Peer Care Network Program aims to support safe, thriving families and prevent family policing system involvement. The program will train and support a network of Peer Supporters across NYC.

Our vision is that this will:

- Increase the likelihood that parents in emerging crises safely get support without state intervention;
- Increase the flourishing of peer relationships that reduce stress, trauma and isolation and strengthen healing, care, connectedness and joy.



What is the Role of Peer Supporters?

- Parents impacted by the family policing system (child welfare system) or with other credible life experience will be trained as volunteer Peer Supporters to provide basic support to other parents in their community who are dealing with family challenges.
- Peer Supporters are not mandated reporters.
- Their primary responsibility will be to serve as a safe, nonjudgmental person to talk to who can connect a family to relevant information, resources and opportunities.
- Peer Supporters will support families with their everyday needs and wants and with building positive relationships. They will provide advocacy and support, including by using restorative justice circles.
- Peer Supporters will attend/ collaborate with parent groups (e.g. school PTAs) to connect with parents.
- Our hope is that peer support will prevent reports and enable parents to access resources without system involvement.

"Peer Supporters are hopeful, empathetic, respectful, honest and direct. They facilitate change and have similar life experiences to impacted parents they support."
-Zoraida R., Rise Peer Trainer



Accomplishments

The Rise Peer Team has been developing the infrastructure needed to launch the Peer Care Network.

- Published the report, *Someone to Turn To*, presenting Rise's vision for a peer network of collective care by and for parents
- Held a webinar sharing the model
- Developed an 8-week curriculum to train parents to become Peer Supporters in their communities
- Developed a resource database that Peer Supporters will use to provide parents with information
- Kicked off a partnership with the Lower Eastside Girls Club and began training parents as Peer Supporters
- Developing a *Community TIPS* resource for Peer Supporters to share with parents
- Hold weekly online support circles for parents impacted by family policing to gather in community in a safe space