

# WHAT IS PLUK?



**PLUK is the U.S. Department of Education funded Parent Training and Information Center and HRSA funded Family to Family Health Information Center and Statewide Family Network. PLUK is also the Family Voices State Affiliate Organization.**

## **What is our Mission?**

PLUK Parent Center unites parents, professionals, families and friends of children with special needs to support one another, and share information for the benefit of children in Montana.

## **What is our Vision?**

Given information and support, individuals with disabilities and their families will feel empowered to advocate for themselves and participate fully in educational and community opportunities and their own healthcare.

## **How does PLUK work to achieve the mission and vision?**

PLUK believes every family member has an opportunity to be a force for personal and systems level advocacy every time they interact with each other or a system. By teaching families how systems operate and how to approach and engage in advocacy every family can leave behind the legacy of a system that is progressively more family-centered and consumer-friendly. By providing these solid foundational supports, we believe natural family leaders will emerge and continue to effect positive change at a larger scale. PLUK works to support emerging family leaders by providing mentoring and support for their visions and ideas.



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### **What is PLUK?**

- PLUK is a family centered private non-profit that enables families to realize possibilities and make informed decisions on family issues. This could include a child of any age that may experience a disability, special health care need, or sex/gender or other issue that may affect their education, work, or life, but is not required.
- PLUK supports families, the educators and other professionals that serve them, and caring community members to become as knowledgeable as possible on the issues encountered in raising a child who requires specialized parenting, medical, behavioral, and/or educational/vocational support services to achieve success in life.
- PLUK staff are primarily family members or individuals that may experience a disability or special health care need who have extensive training and lived experience navigating the systems providing services to families, children, and adults.
- There are no eligibility requirements to receive PLUK assistance. Anyone in Montana may ask for help on any issue. And, there is no cost.
- PLUK is a network of 50,000 family members, service providers, policy-makers, and caring community members who share information and support one another to benefit children to achieve meaningful outcomes in life.

### **What does PLUK do?**

- PLUK responds to requests for assistance from anyone in the state of Montana.
- PLUK provides the most up-to-date, accessible information.
- PLUK provides one-on-one assistance to individuals and families to resolve issues, access resources, find services, and navigate systems.
- PLUK empowers families and others to make informed decisions and resolve issues on their own.
- PLUK informs families of their rights and responsibilities.
- PLUK facilitates training on needed and requested topics anywhere in the state.
- PLUK develops and supports parent leaders to participate in policy decision-making at all levels.
- PLUK promotes the value of family involvement in all systems.
- PLUK promotes quality improvement and systems change at the federal and state level within all systems that serve families and children.

### **What systems?**

- Medical
- Early intervention
- Preschool
- Elementary, middle, and high school
- College
- Behavioral health
- Developmental Disabilities
- Youth court

### **How is PLUK funded?**

- US Department of Education
- HRSA of the US Department of Health and Human Services
- SAMHSA of the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Montana Developmental Disabilities Program
- Montana Early Intervention - Part C
- Fee for service including Medicaid—care coordination using high fidelity wraparound for families of children with SED diagnosis
- Private, corporate, & individual contributions