

# Efficacy and Accessibility of a Web-Based Training Model for Family Peer Advocates in Children’s Mental Health Services in NY State<sup>1</sup>

## Overview

The NYS Office of Mental Health has made a long-term commitment to nurturing the growth of Family Peer Support Services, including the establishment of statewide training and credentialing. This service is now a Medicaid State Plan service.

To improve access and reduce cost, NYS shifted from in-person to a web-based training for FPAs seeking to earn an FPA Credential. The **web-based was found to be an effective, efficient, accessible, and cost-saving** method for training Family Peer Advocates.



n=140 participants

## Key Takeaway

There were **significant gains** in knowledge between pre & post tests: no difference in web-based training gains from in-person gains.

Overall, the transition to online-based trainings did not at all compromise learning.

## Components & Evaluation

Core Family Peer Advocate skills

14 asynchronous online training modules



Pre & Post tests

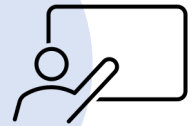
## Looking Forward

Web-based trainings **shorten the credentialing process and reduce access barriers.**

This successful incorporation of a web-based component could set a precedent for web-based FPSS training for other states.

## Learner Feedback

*“The shortened in-person portion combined with the online modules makes it more convenient and still reap huge benefits.”*



*“Love the online module; it standardizes the program and helps define the role. Learners can go back and access the tools and resources available.”*