

## HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES WAIVER PROGRAM

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Parsons Child & Family Center's Home- and Community-Based Services Waiver Program provides care coordination for children and youth ages 5–18 experiencing mental health challenges and their families. The care coordinator is able to access 5 additional services to support children and youth and their family in reaching their identified goals. This program is available in 14 upstate New York counties (Albany, Columbia, Fulton, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Schoharie, Ulster, Warren, and Washington). This program uses a strength-based approach to work with families who would like their children to receive services within the home rather than using out-of-home placements.

### AVAILABLE SERVICES

- Care coordination provides comprehensive care management, information and referral, advocacy, individual and family support, and comprehensive transitional care.
- Intensive in-home services help facilitate the children's emotional and social development and learning.
- Crisis response workers perform interventions designed to assist the children and families when they are in crisis.
- Respite workers temporarily care for waiver services children, on an emergency or planned basis, providing relief from care-giving responsibilities for the family.
- Skill building: workers focus on the developmental stage of the child and work with the child towards achieving age appropriate developmental tasks.
- Family peer advocacy: workers are parents who are raising or have raised a child with mental health concerns and are personally familiar with the associated challenges. They offer the integrity of their experience to families and are often able to connect with waiver families based on a unique understanding of their circumstances.

### BENEFITS

- Allows children to stay in their home environment while working on challenges resulting from their mental health concerns.

**Who can access services?** Youth ages 5–18 who may be at risk of out-of-home placement due to mental health concerns.

**How are services accessed?** Referrals come to the program from the county's single point of access (SPOA). An application can be completed by the parent or guardian, primary clinical program, ICM, probation, school district staff, private therapist, or other service provider.

**When are services available?** The program has offices in Albany, Gloversville, Hudson, Kingston, Schenectady, and Queensbury. Once enrolled in the program, on-call services are available to families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.