The Kentucky Autism Training Center (KATC) is developing the ***KATC Family Network: Families Supporting Families*.** The purpose of the *KATC Family Network* is to develop a network of family members affected by ASD who will reach, collaborate, empower, and develop relationships with others throughout the state of Kentucky at both the local and state level. Through a partnership with **The Council on Developmental Disabilities (CDD)**, the KATC is seeking individuals who are interested in becoming Family Leaders for the ***Networ****k*.

The Family Leaders will come together at the Kosair Charities Campus in Louisville for an intense two-day leadership development program delivered by staff from **The Council on Developmental Disabilities. The training has been adapted from CDD’s LEAD program (Leadership, Education, & Advocacy Development).** The program was designed to train parents, advocates, and anyone who serves persons with disabilities in the areas of leadership and advocacy - by offering the support, resources, and various training in the **law, collaborative communication, and more.** Upon completion of the intense two-day training, **Family Leaders will be asked to support families throughout the Commonwealth.** Responsibilities of Family Leaders may include the following: provide direct support to families, mentor other families, deliver presentations and network with families as well as policy makers, and to collaborate with other disability groups throughout the state.

We invite you to review the criteria and responsibilities of a Family Leader with the ***KATC Family Network***. If interested please complete the on-line application. Thank you for considering participating in this important project. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rebecca Grau | Heidi Cooley-Cook |
| Rebecca Grau  Assistant Director  Kentucky Autism Training Center  [Rebecca.grau@louisville.edu](mailto:Rebecca.grau@louisville.edu)  502.852.7799 | Heidi Cooley-Cook  Field Training Coordinator  Kentucky Autism Training Center |

***The Kentucky Autism Training Center* is creating the *KATC Family Network*. We are looking for people who fit the following criteria to be Family Leaders:**

* Support and facilitate the purpose of *KATC Family Network:* *Families Supporting Families.*
* Willingness to support and mentor families of children who receive special education services under an autism diagnosis.
* Desire to enhance services and supports for individuals with Autism and other disabilities.
* Advocate for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders across the lifespan, at a local and state level.
* Ability to attend intense 2-day training and on-going training sessions.
* Strong interpersonal communication skills.
* Commitment to Evidence Based Practices.

**Family Leader with the *KATC Family Network* will be asked to:**

* Represent the KATC at parent and professional activities and meetings.
* Attend regular monthly web-based enrichment sessions.
* Keep monthly record of contacts with families you assist as well as advocacy/training activities.
* Provide direct support to families.
* Delivering presentations and networking with families and policy makers.
* Collaborate with other disability, advocacy, parent, and education groups.
* Support new *KATC Family Network* Family Leaders.

There is **no cost** for the application or participation in the *KATC Family Network*. Family Leaders will receive $150 stipend, mileage reimbursement at $0.565/mile, and lodging will be covered for those living more than 50 miles from University of Louisville - Shelby Campus.

2 Day Training

Spring 2014

*\*\*\*Seating is limited\*\*\*Applications Due December 1, 2013*

Family Leader Application

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Applicant Name: | Date: | |
| Street Address: | City: | Zip: |
|
| Home Phone: | Cell: | Other: |
| E-mail: | Occupation: | |
| Do you have a child or relative who receives or has received special education services? | What is their diagnosis? | |
|
|
| What is your relationship to this child (mother, father, foster parent, guardian, etc.)? | | Name & age of child: |
|
| Name of school child is attending: | What grade? | |
| School District: | |
| How did you hear about the *KATC Family Network*? | | |
|
|
| Do you require any special accommodations? | | |
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Family Leader Application

Please answer the following questions, keeping all answers to under 200 words.

1. Tell us about yourself and your family.
2. Tell us about your strengths and any unique experiences you’ve had in your journey to provide supports and find services for your child.
3. What does the word “advocacy” mean to you? Please give a brief example of how you have advocated for something or someone.
4. If selected as a Family Leader for the *KATC Family Network*, how would you encourage others to become involved?
5. What do you hope to gain from participating in the *KATC Family Network* as a Family Leader?
6. Explain the difference between advocating for your child and working with policy makers to address needs at the systemic level.

Family Leader Application

Please list three references:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Phone | E-mail | Relationship to you |
| 1.) |  |  |  |
| 2.) |  |  |  |
| 3.) |  |  |  |

**APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:**

**Please e-mail, fax, or mail - completed forms by December 1, 2013 to**:

Heidi Cooley-Cook

502-852-6401

502-852-7148 fax

hacool01@louisville.edu