

## About the NJ Alliance of Family Support Organizations (Alliance)

## NJ Family & Youth Leadership Academy Partners

The Alliance strives to strengthen and promote the wellness of families, children and youth who have emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health challenges by serving as a catalyst and capacity-builder for family and empowerment

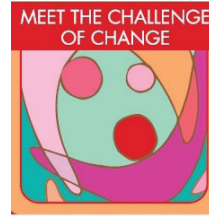
organizations. The state's unified voice for children, youth and families, the Alliance is the leading expert of training, technical assistance and continuous quality improvement. Of 15 Family Support Organizations and Youth Partnerships served:

*97% of families are better able to lead their child's treatment and plan;*

*91% of families have more support in their lives;*

*96% of youth can better make decisions about services and other things in their lives;*

*88% of youth have more support like friends and caring adults.*



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## New Jersey Family & Youth Leadership Academy



*Leading Change in Our Own Lives and the Lives of Others...*

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*Leading Change in Our Own Lives and the Lives of Others...*

**Sponsor a youth or parent today!**

**Visit [NJFamilyAlliance.org](http://NJFamilyAlliance.org)**



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Presented by the  
New Jersey Alliance of  
Family Support Organizations

## History of the NJ Family & Youth Leadership Academy

Leaders of the for-profit sector often have access to leadership development through training, technical assistance and coaching in order to better lead their companies. The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development developed the *Leadership Academy: Meet the Challenge of Change* for champions of children, youth and families. Several of New Jersey's family leaders were able to attend this Academy and realized that all children, youth and families are leaders in their own lives, schools and communities.

In 2012, the Alliance applied for three years of federal funding to develop and implement the Academy from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). In 2013, the proposal was awarded providing the opportunity for a unique partnership between Georgetown University's Leadership Academy, Youth M.O.V.E. National and the Alliance. Employing youth, families and their allies to work with state and national partners resulted in a culturally and linguistically competent experience... the first in the nation!

## Importance of the NJ Family & Youth Leadership Academy

Those involved in systems such as mental health, child welfare, juvenile justice and special education, are likely struggling with complex needs. Despite many barriers including: lack of services, systemic fragmentation, and stigma, there is incredible pressure for youth and families to succeed without the proper support. Do you know:

Only 37% of youth who experience major depressive episodes received treatment;

While only 30% of the US population, people of color represent 60% of the prison population;

73% of 12th graders in special education read below the basic reading level.

As a result, leadership development is equally as critical to youth and families as it is to seasoned professionals working in *Fortune 500 companies* or government leaders in the *Georgetown University Leadership Academy*.

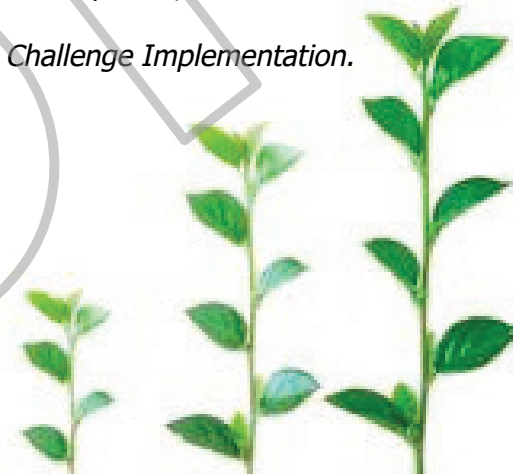
Nominations occur each summer for 60 youth and young adult ages 15-28 and their families to participate in four phases:

*Outreach & Engagement,*

*Leadership Orientation,*

*Leadership Development,*

*Leadership Challenge Implementation.*



Each participant receives individual leadership coaching from national experts in addition to critical training and support from Academy Faculty. As their knowledge expands, each participant identifies a *Leadership Challenge*. The *Leadership Challenge* is a personal difficulty or systemic need the participant wants to change. New personal insights in addition to leadership knowledge and skill are the basis for tackling the *Leadership Challenge* with support of the coaches. The experience culminates with a grand, red-carpet event. Graduates become members of the *National Georgetown Leadership Academy Alumni Network* and *Youth M.O.V.E. National*. Graduates can also return the following year as paid coaches, faculty and staff!

1 Costello, E. J., He, J. P., Sampson, N. A., Kessler, R. C., & Merikangas, K. R. (2013). Services for adolescents with psychiatric disorders: 12-month data from the National Comorbidity Survey-Adolescent. *Psychiatric Services*, 65(3), 459.

2 Kerby, S. (2012). The Top 10 Most Startling Facts About People of Color and Criminal Justice in the United States:

A Look at the Racial Disparities Inherent in Our Nation's Criminal-Justice System. *Center for American Progress*.

3 Swanson, C.B. (2008). Special Education in America: The state of students with disabilities in the nation's high schools. Educational Resource Center.