

CONTRIBUTIONS OF FAMILIES TO PARTNERSHIPS

Given the opportunity, family members make many contributions.

1. Connecting with families when other service providers cannot
2. Taking a "green light" versus "red tape" approach—using simple, creative, unrestricted methods to reach solutions
3. Providing insights to the specifics of what makes services work
4. Bringing concerns of the community to the partnership
5. Relating direct experience with the impact of services and supports
6. Understanding the concerns and the support resources of families in the community, which might not be apparent to service providers
7. Gathering support for new approaches with other families and residents
8. Helping to keep service providers focused on the children and families they are trying to help
9. Knowing what assistance they and other families of their community need
10. Fostering community support for improving how agencies and communities do business