

# LIFE families say...

"Thanks for showing me how to have a voice." - 14 year old

"The LIFE Program works collaboratively with the schools and families and are an asset to the community." -BCIU

"Thank you for your upbeat willingness to go the extra mile to help people." - Parent



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## Contact Us

Call 1.888.442.1590 or visit [www.LifeInBucks.org](http://www.LifeInBucks.org). If you would like to receive support and guidance, or may have questions for the Bucks County LIFE team, please feel free to contact us. We serve all of Bucks County at no cost to families and collaborating partners.

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## ACCESS SERVICES

Creating better ways to serve people with special needs

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BUCKS COUNTY

# LIFE

PROGRAM



Serving Bucks County families with children who have emotional, behavioral, social and/or learning challenges.



[www.LifeInBucks.org](http://www.LifeInBucks.org)

## What is Bucks County LIFE?

We are here to help support families who reside within Bucks County. Through a non-clinical and strength-based perspective, the Bucks County LIFE program mentors parents, grandparents, and caregivers whose children range in age from birth through age 26 and struggle with emotional, behavioral, social, and/or learning challenges. Diagnosis and insurance are not required. The Bucks County LIFE family support program is provided at no cost to families.

Through a collaborative approach, the Bucks County LIFE program aims to create supportive teams of families, service providers, and community organizations to assist with the family's emotional, intellectual and physical well-being.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to build strong, resourceful families and resilient children by sharing knowledge, resources, referral to services, direct support and training; with a focus on building a culture of parents and youth as mentors, partnerships within the community and collaborations with systems of care.

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## How We Can Help

- 1-on-1 direct support to families
- Promote self-advocacy
- Helpful resources for you and your child
- Establish collaborative partnerships with teams and service providers
- Support families through the special education/504 systems
- Attend meetings with families
- Referrals and linkages to community services and programs
- Support with applications to government assistance programs (MA, SSI, etc.)
- Peer Support services for ages 14-26
- Informative trainings and workshops
- Family/Youth activities and events
- Navigation through the child and adult serving systems of care with a positive, non-judgmental, and strength-based approach
- Encouragement with parenting children who have challenges

## Family Support Specialists

Our Family Support Specialists are parent peer professionals, who have a lived experience through their own children and have gained professional training to support and guide families through the child and adult-serving systems. Family Support Specialists have a passion to mentor parents and caregivers through the system of care and cultivate helpful support for Bucks County families. Family Support Specialists utilize a supportive, parent-to-parent relationship model to assist families with individualized, family driven goals.

## Administrative Case Manager

The Bucks County LIFE Administrative Case Manager guides families entering various services and systems, have significant system involvement, or their children are requiring higher levels of care.

To further support families, the Administrative Case manager takes an active role within collaborative work-groups geared toward advocacy efforts and development of innovative initiatives.

## Transition-Age Peer Support Specialist

A Certified Peer Specialist is an individual who has a personal lived experience within the mental health and school systems, as well as, varied systems of care. A Certified Peer Specialist has been trained and certified to mentor young people who seek out this unique support and would benefit from the shared lived experience. A Certified Peer Specialist guides youth and young adults, ages 14-26 who are still in school, toward their own youth-driven goals which enhance a young person's self-advocacy and self-direction. A Certified Peer Specialist meets one-on-one with young people within the home, school, and community.