

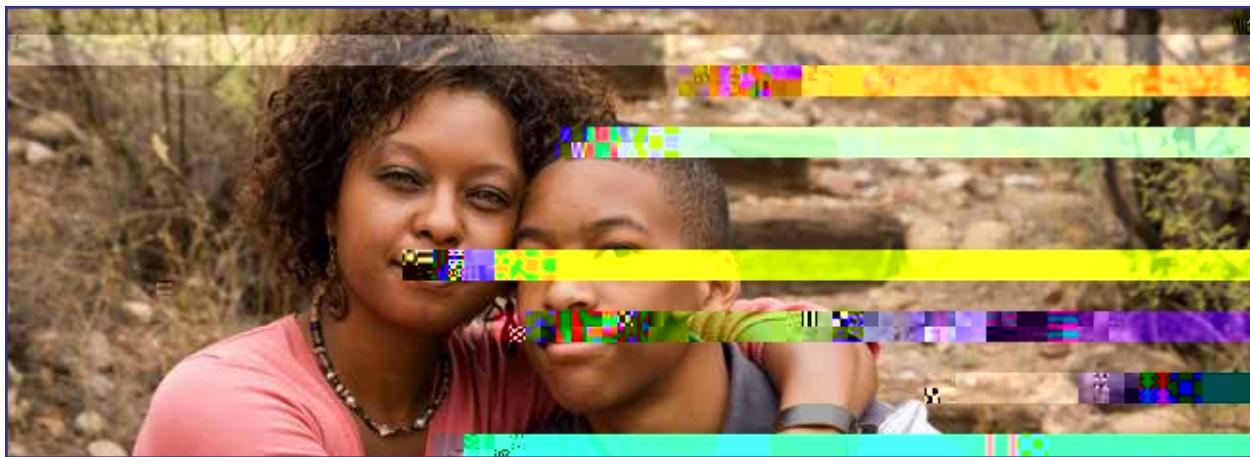


Young people vary widely in the amount and  
formal and informal support can include several  
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exploring the costs and advantages of a bus pass.
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groups where youth can meet other young people with similar interests.
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new skill like driving or managing a budget.
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## Supporting and strengthening family support

- Service providers have important roles in strengthening the support families provide to youth.
- Encouraging families to provide needed support to youth.
  - Supporting families to connect with community resources.



## Connecting youth with community supports

- You can seek clues about goals and areas of possible sources of community support:
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“The Speak Up and Empower group helped me to come out of my shell, grow as a person, and give back to the community.”

– [young adult]

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## Faith-based support

What do you know about the spirituality of young people you work with and/or their

- Prayer and spirituality may be coping strategies that can sustain some young people with mental health challenges through adversity and toward recovery.
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- support.
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important to know and follow youth and young adult preferences; LGBTQ  
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“My pastor from my church helps me understand the things I don’t understand. He helps put meaning in my life.”

– [young adult]

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mentor in their family or neighborhood or  
a formal mentor who volunteers through a  
community-based program or works as a paid  
professional mentor. You can help link youth  
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- Encourage youth to select mutually  
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- Provide help in a non-judgmental way
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“My mentor is like my diary, I tell her everything. She listens and gives good advice. I can be relaxed.”

– [young adult]

## Peer Support

Many youth and young adults prefer peer

support programs employ peer support specialists focused on recovery and resilience

Peer support programs employ peer support specialists focused on recovery and resilience

have had experiences receiving services from the mental health and other service systems because of their shared experiences and encouragement.

You might be able to connect youth with peer support or mentoring programs in your area start one locally.

**“Peer support helps young adults walk through the barriers of everyday life.”**

– [young adult peer support provider]

## References

- Disparities in child and adolescent mental health and mental health services in the U. S. Evidence-supported handbook
- Peer supports for youth and young adults and consumer-operated services.
- Administration and Policy in Mental Health Services Research, 33(1), 1-10.

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*Journal of Behavioral Health Services and Research*, 35~ ð•U ðiirðíôX

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Blackwell.

## Resources

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<http://www.actveminds.org>

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) is dedicated to improving  
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Youth M.O.V.E National ]• Ç } µšZ ro v Ÿ}v o }OE P v]ì Ÿ}v Á]š  
chapters devoted to improving services and systems that support  
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<http://www.youthmovenational.org>

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[www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu](http://www.pathwaysrtc.pdx.edu)



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should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.