



MedStar Georgetown University Hospital

Certification & Training for Community Mental Health Workers

Our Family Leadership certificate program trains a diverse network of community mental health professionals to specialize in and join the infant, early childhood, and family mental health workforce.

OUR NORTH STAR GOAL



By prioritizing diversity, racial equity, and social justice within education and healthcare systems, we aim to reduce health disparities and foster wellness among young children and their families.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Families often have to wait months to see a mental health specialist, and health and mental health professionals lack the diversity and lived experiences that are essential for building trust and understanding with historically marginalized communities.

SOLUTION & VALUE PROPOSITION

We provide training and employment opportunities in the mental health sector to community members with lived experiences to increase diversity in the workforce, improve wellness services for families, and drive systemic changes to reduce inequities and foster healthier communities.

SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE



Increased economic mobility and financial security for parents, families, and community members



Integration of whole-family approaches that value family voices and lived experiences in public health and behavioral health services



Establishment of a national Community Mental Health Worker apprenticeship

HOW IT WORKS

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Students receive classroom instruction, academic support, professional success coaching, and hands-on practicum resources
- Online competency-based modules concentrate on para-professional pathways into the mental health profession
- Focuses include: public health, infant and early childhood development, and family mental health

WELL-BEING TECHNIQUES

- Content includes self-care, mindfulness, and occupational well-being techniques
- Students learn to mitigate secondary trauma and enhance professional retention of parents and community members
- Well-being mentorship with a clinical psychologist helps participants develop personalized well-being plans

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Apprenticeship opportunities beyond traditional pediatric healthcare settings in child welfare, faith-based institutions, Head Start, schools, etc.
- Employers are sponsored, and students receive paid, on-the-job training while applying skills in the workforce

RESOURCES NEEDED

- Personal motivation: lived experience
- Personal ability: academic/professional coaching, leadership development, and apprenticeship opportunities
- Social motivation: peer support and diverse national faculty
- Social ability: mindfulness and mental health supports
- Structural motivation: economic supports like scholarships for students
- Structural ability: workforce development and community partners



STUDENT TESTIMONY

Highlights the transformative impact of the program and its pivotal role in improving mental health outcomes for its students and enabling them to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.



60 GRADUATES

From the program since its launch in 2020.



ABOVE 95%

Retention in the field for those who were in existing positions and upskilled their knowledge in self well-being and family mental health.

This concept poster codifies a program or best practice of a two-generation (2Gen) approach for practitioners to replicate and systems and policy leaders to scale in order to improve outcomes for children and their families. Ascend at the Aspen Institute and the 2Gen Accelerator Community developed this concept poster alongside a portfolio of resources so that leaders can advance opportunities for families to achieve intergenerational success and well-being.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? ascend.aspeninstitute.org/2gen-accelerator

