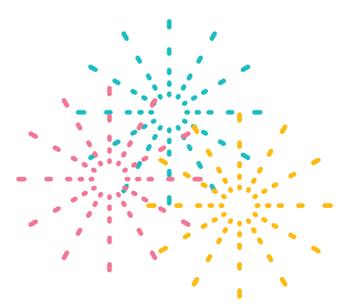


PEPS

PROGRAM FOR EARLY PARENT SUPPORT



2021 Mid-Year Impact Report

What we are celebrating...

Our staff, board and our group facilitators. They came together with care for one another and showed up for parents in our community in remarkable ways during these past 15 months. They listened, learned and unlearned, adapted and held space for connection and grief.

Expectant parents and our new program – just for them. Bringing a baby into this world is a big transition. Doing so during a pandemic adds extra layers of stress and uncertainty. This is why we piloted a program for expectant parents in 2020 and we're thrilled to have rolled out 'Connecting the Expecting' Groups as an ongoing program offering in 2021. We're starting two groups every month and have connected 204 expectant parents in this new program so far this year.



204 expectant parents

What we are excited about...

Connecting 1,364 parents in 131 virtual PEPS Groups between January and June of this year!

Increasing our capacity for work with community partners by investing in a full time Partnership Manager. This approach helps PEPS work in collaboration with other organizations to creatively provide parent peer support to parenting communities we haven't historically served or served well. Our newest partners, NISO, supports Spanish-speaking parents on King County's Eastside; Martha's Table supports families in Washington DC, and The Foundry supports families in Bowling Green, Kentucky.



131 virtual groups



1,364 parents

What we are hearing...

Many families have expressed to us a desire to meet and connect with other families who share identities that intersect with their identity as parents and caregivers. We developed an approach to respond to this need through virtual affinity groups. We started by piloting a peer-support series for LGBTQIA+ families and caregivers with plans to pilot affinity groups for parents with children with developmental challenges or disabilities, single parents, working moms, international/immigrant families, and other affinities as the need emerges.



building community

What we can't wait to find out...

What the parents of teens and adolescents who are currently participating in our pilot groups tell us about their experience, needs and more. In January, we hired a Program Manager, and have developed a curriculum, trained facilitators and hosted 3 pilot groups. We started an additional 8 groups in June and July and will use what we learn to further inform how we build out support for parents of adolescents and teens!

What keeps us up at night...

Planning how to safely bring families together in person again. While this summer is marking a re-opening in our state, re-emerging from the pandemic is particularly challenging for families with young children and PEPS! Babies are part of PEPS Groups, and both PEPS and parents prioritize the safety of these little ones. We are continuing to operate our groups virtually through the end of the year and are making plans to offer virtual, in-person and hybrid options in 2022.

Our values of equity, inclusion and community are at the center of our decisions, which are being informed by advisors including doctors and public health experts, community partners and more. We are particularly grateful for Andie Lyons from King County Public Health who joined us at a staff meeting to share the most recent science and recommendations and talk through these challenges.



finding support

What we are curious about...

How would you like to engage with us going forward? We want to provide more opportunities for members of our community to engage with PEPS and inform our work. If what you read inspires you, you have thoughts or feedback or ideas, we'd love to hear from you!

Please email us at danag@peps.org. Ask us questions! Lead a group! Let us know what interests you. Or tell us a story of how connection and community with other parents has had an impact on you in 2021.

