



# STONE SOUP GROUP SUMMARY

## OUR STORY & GUIDING PHILOSOPHY

Stone Soup Group (SSG) is a statewide nonprofit organization created in 1992 by parents of children with disabilities, healthcare providers and social workers **who shared a common vision for interconnected, collaborative, family-driven assistance** for other families of children with special needs.

Our name is a nod to the children's fable, in which, after being convinced by a hungry stranger that they can make soup with just a stone, a village of people each decide to contribute their own meats and vegetables, until there is enough balanced, nutritious soup to feed everyone.

**This spirit of collaboration and input of varied experience and knowledge is the philosophy behind the work we do at SSG.**

## OUR PROGRAMS & SERVICES

SSG services are geared for families, whose children's needs are outside of the typical experience, including medical, disability, mental health and special education issues. We offer information, support, training and resources to empower families and strengthen a family's community support system.

## NAVIGATION

Navigation is at the core of what we do. With first-hand knowledge of the programs and services throughout the community, Navigators assist families as they "navigate" through overwhelming and complex issues that arise when caring for a child with special needs. Understanding that each situation is unique they help to identify specialized information, support, trainings and resources for each family.

## WHO ARE PARENT or DDRC NAVIGATORS?

They are parents and siblings of individuals with special needs and are familiar with connecting to community resources and support. They know the journey and can help guide others in the process.

## OUR MISSION

Stone Soup Group exists to sustain the health and well-being of Alaskan children with special needs and their families. Through listening to their stories, we identify areas of need and work with communities to find solutions.

## PARENT TRAINING, INFORMATION AND SCHOOL SUPPORT

SSG is the Alaska's federally designated Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). Navigating the special education process can be overwhelming and complicated. Our Parent Navigators help equip families with the tools needed to understand the system, work with schools, and advocate for their children. School support can be as personal as accompanying a parent to an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting or broad as providing Bullying Prevention and IEP training for parents and professionals. SSG Parent Navigators work to build collaborative relationships with schools throughout the state.

## DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY RESOURCE CONNECTION

The Developmental Disability Resource Connection (DDRC) Program is the "point of entry" for Alaskans with complex medical conditions or developmental disabilities. Before an individual can start receiving services, they

need to be deemed “eligible” for support. DDRC Navigators assist families through this process by helping to apply for State of Alaska programs, assisting with paperwork, identifying alternative financial supports to cover emergency travel, respite or equipment, and connecting families to other community resources.

## FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH AND INFORMATION

SSG is Alaska’s federally designated Family-to-Family (F2F) Health Information Center. As an F2F Center, SSG provides comprehensive health-related information for families caring for children with special needs. F2F translates legislation and government forms to make it easier for families to understand. Trained Parent Navigators can provide information, support, and a connection to resources throughout the community based on the family’s needs.

## TRANSITION SUPPORT

Whether it is making that first step entering school, or graduating and exploring post-secondary education opportunities, life transitions can be overwhelming for both children with special needs and their parents. Activities, services, and parent navigation at SSG can help parents and young adults gain greater independence in the areas of education, housing, finance, employment, health care, and social needs.

## SPECIALIZED SUPPORT

Many diagnoses can benefit from specialized programs for families and professionals to better understand the individual needs of their children. SSG offers specialized support services for fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD), cleft lip/palate, early hearing detection and intervention, and autism.

## MENTOR. ADVOCATE. PARTNER (MAP)

Mentor. Advocate. Partner. (M.A.P.) is a peer support program. SSG is an affiliate member of Parent-to Parent USA. One of the most valuable resources for families is connecting with other families who have had similar experiences caring for children with special needs, so the MAP Program matches parents with Mentors for guidance and support as they begin their disability journey.

## CONTACT US

### Stone Soup Group


Supporting families who care for children with special needs


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