



# NORTHERNRIVERS

Founded where the Mohawk and Hudson meet, like the rivers that shaped our region, Northern Rivers Family of Services helps change lives by shaping the future of those we serve throughout the Capital Region and beyond. Northern Rivers is a family of human services agencies that work together and are committed to helping children, adults, and families.

Formed in 2012, Northern Rivers is the parent organization to Northeast Parent & Child Society (founded in 1888 in Schenectady), Parsons Child & Family Center (founded in 1829 in Albany), and Unlimited Potential (founded in Saratoga Springs in 1979). Together we serve more than 16,000 children, adults, and families in more than 40 counties in New York state who struggle with abuse, neglect, trauma, mental health challenges, educational difficulties, career training and employment, and service navigation through an innovative continuum of home-, clinic-, school-, and community-based services, vocational rehabilitation, supported employment, and senior-supporting programs that provide person-centered, trauma-informed innovative solutions to ensure clients live their best lives.

With a 1,400-strong workforce and informed by our nearly 200-year heritage, our quality of care, depth of programs, combined size, and passion for the mission make us a leading human services provider.

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# NORTHERNRIVERS

NORTHEAST PARENT & CHILD SOCIETY  
PARSONS CHILD & FAMILY CENTER  
UNLIMITED POTENTIAL

## EM-BARC

**Experience Matters—Building  
Advocacy & Respect  
in Communities**

**A Credible Messenger Service**



We build on the strengths of families, their neighborhood organizations, and community connections to successfully reunite youth and family within their home community.

## *Benefits*

- Supported transition from residential placement
- Advocacy for caregivers and youth in areas of health, wellness, mental health, legal issues, education, and employment
- Connection to community resources, both formal and informal
- Increased civic engagement within the home community
- Support and guidance for caregivers
- Reduced recidivism

## *Referral Process*

Youth are referred by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) in collaboration with the New York Division of Juvenile Justice and Opportunities for Youth (DDJOY).



**Office of Children  
and Family Services**

## About Us

EM-BARC (Experience Matters—Building Advocacy and Respect in Communities) is a Credible Messenger service that provides comprehensive family support services to youth awaiting release from juvenile justice and private nonprofit residential programs and their families.

## Our Goal

We actively engage youth and family prior to release from a placement setting and plan for the youth's and family's success by supporting youth and caregivers in the design and implementation of services that families believe will facilitate a strategic plan for success at home, school, and within their communities.

## We can help.



*We've walked in your shoes!*

## What to Expect

**24-hour engagement** – We attempt to meet with families within 24 hours of referral.

**In-home services** – We provide outreach services to families.

**Family engagement** – We recognize family members as crucial assets in a youth's life and build on his or her strengths through peer coaching and support.

**Flexibility** – We schedule home visits around your family's work and school schedules.

**Community connections** – We help you identify both family and community resources for you and your child.

**Involvement** – We include you in every stage of problem identification, goal formation, and treatment planning.

**Resources** – We provide information, referral, and advocacy as needed or requested.

**Respect** – We treat you with dignity and respect.

## Services Offered

- Individual and group support for youth with our Credible Messenger Mentor
- Individual and group support for caregivers with our Parent Peer Coach
- Skill building and problem-solving
- Safety planning
- Advocacy and support
- Case planning and collaboration
- Referrals
- Attendance and participation in school and other provider meetings on request
- Assistance with meeting concrete needs for food, clothing, shelter, transportation, employment, and medical care



*Staff is sensitive to cultural differences and engage families openly, honestly, and as equal partners, creating an individualized plan for successful community.*