NAMI Family-to-Family teachers assist in NAMI’s mission of support, education, and advocacy by providing family members and friends of adults living with mental illness with valuable information, communication techniques, and problem solving skills that enable families to better support and advocate for their loved one. NAMI Greater Cleveland strongly believes in peer support and we seek qualified candidates for this signature program who have lived experience to draw from.

**Minimum Requirements for Volunteer Family-to-Family Teachers**

- Commit to teaching (8) eight session courses within two years of achieving your teaching certification. Volunteers are welcomed and encouraged to stay involved if so desired beyond the two-course requirement
- Maintain the confidentiality of course participants and fidelity to the teaching module
- Maintain current NAMI membership while teaching
- Respects his/her own emotional and physical resources and limitations
- As a Family-to-Family teacher, does not act in the capacity of therapist or any other health professional
- Adheres to the integrity of the NAMI Family-to-Family model. Demonstrates this during the course by utilizing the facilitation tools and skills he/she has been trained by NAMI to provide
- Facilitates each class to the best of his/her ability
- Willingness to participate in continued development to provide the best education experience possible and continually improve facilitator skills.
- Respects cultural and lifestyle differences of group participants
- Understands that his/her behaviors reflect on the integrity and perception of NAMI and the programs NAMI offers and, therefore, keeps personal opinions and actions separate from those made as a NAMI leader

**Teaching Time commitment**

- While preparing for and teaching a course, anticipate devoting a minimum of 3 hours for a 2-month period to the success of the course.
- Willingness/flexibility to travel and teach throughout the Greater Cleveland area
Teacher Qualifications

- Must be a family member/personal caregiver of an adult living with a mental illness.
- Be at a point in your loved one’s illness to have the time to commit to a volunteer role and bring attention and compassion to the course and its participants.
- Be at a point in your loved one’s illness to be able to speak openly and honestly about your own experiences.
- Be supportive of NAMI’s components and definition of Recovery.
- Be a team player as you fulfill this role in coordination with NAMI Greater Cleveland and your co-teacher.
- Be comfortable with reading aloud and speaking to an audience.
- Preferred that candidate has attended NAMI’s Family-to-Family education course.