

Our Story

Founded in 1979, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) emerged from a kitchen table gathering, where families sought to improve the lives of their loved ones and others affected by mental health conditions. At NAMI Far North, our leaders believe in ensuring no one touched by serious mental illness feels alone. We lead with our hearts and shared experiences.

Nami Far North Mission is to provide advocacy, education, support and public awareness so that all individuals and families affected by mental health conditions can build better lives.

NAMI Far North Strategic Plan (2024, 2025,2026)

Goal 1: Grow NAMI Far North and Increase Visibility (2024-2026)

Objectives: Strengthen and Diversify Board of Directors

- Recruit 2 new diverse Directors (2024)
- Implement Board Development/Motivation opportunities through national conventions, Idaho nonprofit training, and skill-building sessions.

Objectives: Membership and Outreach Increase

- Enhance member participation and value.
- Elevator Speeches
- Introduce corporate memberships.
- Enroll local entities, including nonprofit groups, businesses, churches, and government units.
- Collaborate with behavioral health, nonprofit groups, primary care, therapists, and VA

Objectives: Increase Visibility in Bonner and Boundary Counties

- Strengthen presence in Boundary County
- Upgrade and maintain NAMI Far North website and email.
- Enhance social media presence with frequent posts on Facebook and Instagram, news and radio
- Participate in community events, faith-based organizations, fairs, and present to various groups

Objectives: Executive Secretary/Director for Membership and Visibility

- Double membership by 2025, with a 5% increase in 2026
- Hire an executive secretary/director to manage various aspects of the organization, potentially involving a financial commitment.

Goal 2: Improve Lives of People with Mental Health Conditions and Their Families (2024-2026)

Objectives: Education and Signature Programs

- Conduct Family to Family or Family and Friends sessions twice yearly with virtual and hybrid options
- Train and stipend individuals living with a mental health condition for "In Our Own Voice" presentations (2024 x1, 2025 x1)
- Offer Peer to Peer classes as needed (2024-2025 x 1 new leader)
- Initiate other Signature programs as requested.

Objectives: Family Support Group and NAMI Connection

- Increase meetings to bimonthly and include virtual and hybrid options
- Train leaders for Connection and Family Support Group (2024 x 1 leader for each)
- Initiate a Youth Group (2024) and expand its footprint (2025/2026)
- Maintain NAMI Signature Programs, including Helpline

Objectives: Clubhouse, Psychosocial Rehabilitation

- Support the creation of a Clubhouse International model program.
- Collaborate with other agencies for internship/volunteer opportunities.

Goal 3: Obtain and Manage Sustainable Financial Resources (2024-2026)

Objectives: Diversified Funding Sources

- Conduct fundraising events.
- Increase membership by 100% in 2024/2025, with a 5% increase in 2026.
- Seek contributions from individual donors and corporate members.
- Pursue grant awards for specific projects and organizational capacity*.
- Develop a donor program.
- Budget for increased organizational needs.

*NOTE: Organizational capacity definition: Ability of an organization expressed in terms of its 1. Human resources: their number, quality, skills, and experience, 2. Physical and material resources: machines, land buildings, 3. Financial resources: money and credit, 4. Information resources: pool of knowledge, databases, and 5. Intellectual resources: copyrights, designs, patents, etc.

Goal 4: Effective Advocacy on Behalf of Impacted People and their families (2024-2026)

Objective: NAMI Far North Supports NAMI National and NAMI Idaho Advocacy Efforts

- Collaborate with the public, mental health care providers, and agencies.
- Advocate for Crisis Intervention Teams, Sequential Intercept Mapping, and legislative involvement.
- Combat and diminish societal stigma surrounding mental health.

Objective: Access to Community-Based Services

- Strengthen relationships with Bonner General Health, Kaniksu, Heritage, Magellan, and Health and Welfare, Rollings Community council
- Support decriminalization of mental illness, including mental health court establishment 2024/2025
- Collaborate on housing initiatives with organizations like Good Samaritan Inn, Bonner Transitions, and Idahope, Blue Haven, Magnolia, Priest River Mission.