



# POSITION STATEMENT

## Natural Supports

*Date Created: May 21, 2018*

Progressive Community Services promotes and values the network of natural supports in individual's lives. Natural supports enhance people's feelings of belonging and reciprocity. Natural supports can also assist in support decision making and help ensure health and safety for people supported.

Natural support networks are a factor in the Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL) Basic Assurances.

### Definition:

Natural supports can include family members (parents, spouses, siblings, aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, grandparents, and family defined by the person), close friends, neighbors or anyone who is unpaid and has a consistent presence in the person's life.

### Position:

Natural supports will be encouraged and promoted in a variety of ways, including:

Supporting and including information about important relationships in their *Individual Support Plan*. Also included will be information about supports needed to enhance, renew and maintain relationships.

Using *Charting the LifeCourse* to explore relationships, connections and reciprocal roles of those supported.

Using *Personal Outcome Measure (POM) Interviews* to help determine if the person has a natural supports outcome and/or support outcome present according to the CQL POM criteria. If the outcome and/or support is not present, the POM Interviewer will make recommendations and discuss with the person and/or team.

Encouraging the use of technology (social media, phone, email) as applicable to help people stay connected to natural supports.