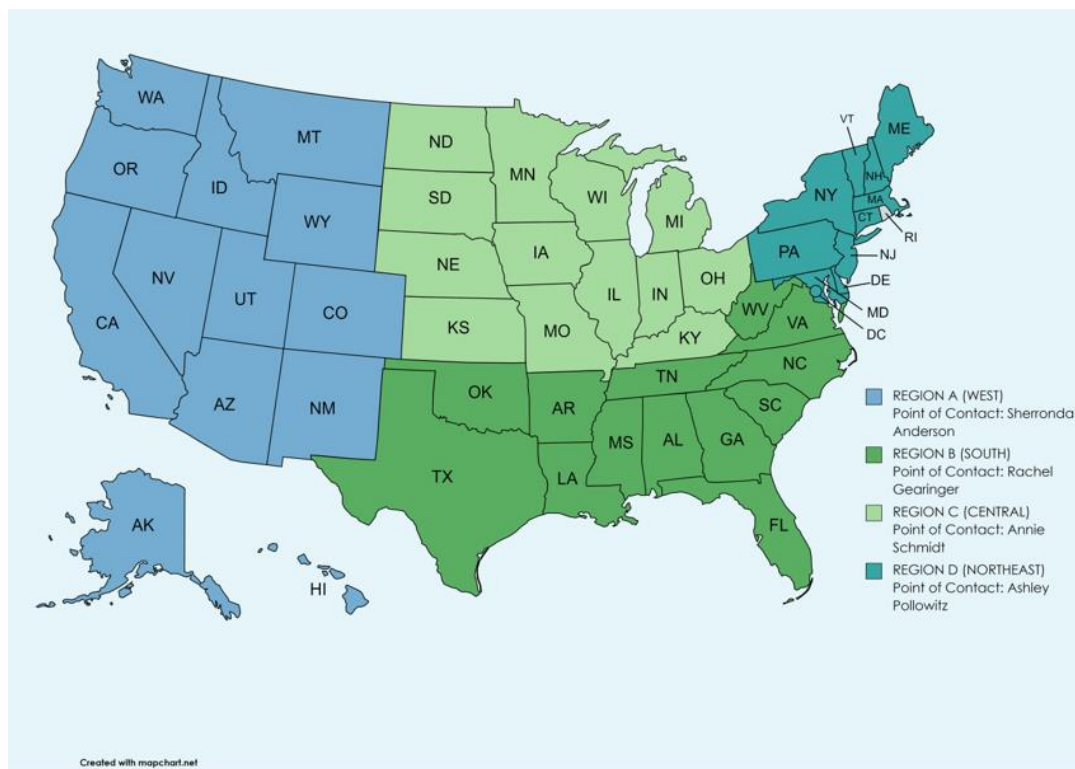


### Background:

In July 2022, the Field Capacity Building team, which is part of the Alliance Relations, Development, & Field Governance (ARDFG) department at NAMI National, implemented a **Regional Model** as a way for the team to support and provide technical assistance to the Alliance in a more effective, efficient, strategic, and consistent way. In doing so, the team aims to both strengthen the Alliance, as well as the internal infrastructure and processes for supporting the field, both of which advance NAMI's five-year strategic plan. \*

### How the Regional Model works and supports NAMI State Organizations:

The United States map is divided into four regions: the West, South, Central, and Northeast regions. Each region is supported by one Senior Manager on the Field Capacity Building team. This individual is responsible for providing *direct* day-to-day support, technical assistance, training, resources, and tools to the NAMI State Organizations (NSOs) in each of the four regions, as well as referring the NSOs to the appropriate subject matter experts at NAMI National. By having one point of contact for each of the four regions, the team strives to provide consistent and tailored support to the NSOs based on a deep understanding of the NSOs, their local eco-systems, and the specific needs of the region. In turn, the NSOs have one consistent, trusted, and reliable point of contact at NAMI National whom they can reach out to with questions. The regional points of contact and the NSOs in their regions communicate regularly through standing quarterly calls, and on an ad hoc basis, about capacity building needs, grant opportunities and deliverables, as well as referrals to subject matter experts across NAMI National.



## How the Regional Model supports NAMI Affiliates:

NAMI currently has over 600 affiliates in its Alliance. Given the number of affiliates, NAMI National does not have the bandwidth to provide direct day-to-day support to each affiliate and looks to the NSOs to provide this primary level of support, which is consistent with NAMI’s federated model. The Field Capacity Building team’s regional points of contact, however, do work with the NSOs in their respective regions to help build and strengthen the NSOs’ capacity to provide ongoing support to their network of affiliates based on individual needs. The team also has staff dedicated to developing and implementing a strategy and handbook for affiliate development, which is currently underway. By building and strengthening the capacity of the NSOs, we aim to build and strengthen the capacity of the affiliates. Again, this is consistent with NAMI’s current federated model, and the roles and responsibilities of each level of the Alliance that are outlined in NAMI’s governing documents. However, there may be circumstances where the affiliate can reach out to the regional points of contact for help. The table below outlines when an affiliate should reach out to their NSO and when they may reach out to the regional point of contact. As a best practice, an affiliate should always include its NSO in any correspondence to a regional point of contact. In turn, the regional points of contact will include the appropriate NSO in any response.

When Affiliates should reach out to the NAMI State Organization	When Affiliates can reach out to the Regional Point of Contact
Question about statewide mental health activities, events, and grants (e.g., state mental health agency funding)	Question about a NAMI National event (e.g., NAMI Convention, NAMI Alliance Day, Executive Directors’ Leadership Exchange)
Need for support and technical assistance on organizational capacity areas (e.g., assistance with strategic or action planning, board development, volunteer recruitment)	Question about a NAMI National grant (e.g., Tardive Dyskinesia)
Question related to statewide trainings and conferences (e.g., annual NSO conference)	Question about a NAMI National campaign (e.g., #MoreThanEnough campaign for Mental Health Awareness Month)

The regional model, coupled with the forthcoming affiliate development handbook, strive to provide clarity regarding the role of NAMI National, the NSOs and Affiliates, and how all parts of the Alliance can operationalize what is included in NAMI’s governing documents, and which is consistent with NAMI’s current federated model.

\* <https://nami.org/NAMInet/Board-of-Directors/Governance-Documents/NAMIStrategicPlan2020>

For questions about the regional model, please email [fieldcapacity@nami.org](mailto:fieldcapacity@nami.org).