

Increase Funding for the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers

FY21 Impact of FHF Centers*

- **FHF Centers are the ONLY “one-stop shops” in Louisiana providing support to ALL individuals with disabilities and their families.**
- **Over 39,180 contacts were made to local FHF Centers from individuals, families, and professionals who sought and received help.**
- **Over 3,070 referrals to services provided**
- **6,498 individuals attended 465 trainings on various disability related topics**
- **28,647 peer-to-peer support connections made**

What Can Legislators Do?

Appropriate an additional \$500,000 in State General Funds (SGF) to the DD Council’s budget so Families Helping Families (FHF) Centers throughout the state can continue to provide vital services to individuals with disabilities and their families.

Why Do This?

Every DD Council state dollar goes directly to FHF Centers. Last year, the legislature appropriated an additional \$500,000 in SGF in the FY22 budget for the Centers. Unfortunately these additional dollars were not included in the FY23 proposed budget despite the Council’s request. Without additional funding, FHF Centers will continue struggling to maintain their current level of service and possibly jeopardize some FHF Centers’ ability to remain open.

FHF Centers are family-directed with a majority of Center staff being parents or family members of children with disabilities or individuals with disabilities. FHF Centers share experiences and information from someone “who has been there.”

The information, referral, trainings, and peer support provided by FHF Centers are not replicated by ANY other organization in the state, leaving families nowhere else to turn, particularly while waiting for other services.

*Based on data collected from nine FHF Centers receiving funding from the DD Council in FY21.