

Recurring Funding for the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers

FY22 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 39,400 contacts were made to local FHF Centers from individuals, families, and professionals who sought and received help.**
- **Nearly 3,500 referrals to services provided**
- **Over 5,500 individuals attended 365 trainings on various disability related topics**
- **30,300 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 and request this additional funding be recurring 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. Over the past two fiscal years, the legislature has seen the value of the Centers and appropriated an additional \$500,000 to the Council's budget. We believe their continued support and appropriation of these additional dollars shows their intent that this funding be recurring.

Unfortunately, despite the Council's request, this additional funding was not included in the FY24 budget. 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. **We need the legislature's help to ensure these additional funds are included in the FY24 budget and made recurring.**

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.