

**FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES
NETWORK REPORT
JULY-SEPT. 2023**

FHF CENTER	UNDUPLICATED JULY- SEPT. 2023	UNITS OF SERVICE JULY- SEPT. 2023	1ST PREVALENT DISABILITY JULY-SEPT. 2023	2ND PREVALENT DISABILITY JULY-SEPT. 2023
Families Helping Families of Southeast LA				
Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge	1269	7601	Autism	Learning Disability
Bayou Land Families Helping Families				
Families Helping Families of Acadiana	1899	3608	Autism	ADHD
Families Helping Families of Southwest LA	2110	4534	Autism	Learning Disability
Families Helping Families at the Crossroads	3310	5694	Autism	ADHD
Families Helping Families Region VII	1967	6369	Autism	ADHD
Families Helping Families of Northeast LA				
Northshore Families Helping Families	2890	6493	Autism	Dev. Delay
Families Helping Families of GNO				

REGION 2

Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge is a family-driven non-profit resource center for individuals with disabilities and their families. Our mission is to provide the individualized services, information, and support needed to positively enhance the independence, productivity, and integration of persons with disabilities into the community.

Our programs include the Bureau of Family Health, Early Steps, The Empowerment Program, Inclusive Education, Family-to-Family Health Information Center, the Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorder, and through the Louisiana Developmental Disability Council – LaCAN, an advocacy network.

Across all of our service areas, we provide information and referrals, education and training, and family to family and/or peer to peer support.

More information about our programs:

- **Bureau of Family Health (BFH):** The goal of the BFH program is to ensure that all children and youth with special healthcare needs (CYSHCN) in Louisiana, as well as their families and healthcare providers, are aware of and are able to access supportive resources in their communities and the state. We provide peer-to-peer support and activities to inform families about advocacy for quality healthcare services. Families, professionals and community partners have opportunities to build relationships and share information through resource information workshops.
- **EarlySteps:** In partnership with the Louisiana Department of Health, Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities, Early Steps serve families with infants and toddlers age birth to 36 months who have a medical condition likely to result in a developmental delay or who have developmental delays.
- **Empowerment Program** (Louisiana Office of Behavioral Health) provides statewide workshops, networking meetings, conferences and support opportunities for families and youth affected by mental health, and additive disorders as well as overall awareness, acceptance, and inclusion of this population. The program also provides families and youth with the education, skills and resources to increase and strengthen their ability to function successfully in their homes and communities.
- **Inclusive Education:** Funded by the Louisiana Department of Education to provide support to families of children with disabilities ages 3 through 21. We help parents of students with disabilities understand special education services, their rights relating to special education, parental involvement, effective communication and transition. Support provided includes advocacy, information, peer support, and technical assistance.
- **Family-to-Family Health Information Center (F2FHIC)** provides training programs and technical assistance, public benefits information, guidance in navigating various health care systems and supports, advocacy to develop an active voice in the decision making process about services.
- **Resource Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (RCASD)** is a comprehensive source of information for anyone living with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. The RCASD offers 1:1 peer support to parents, self-advocates, family members and caregivers. Staff provide families with referrals to the medical, therapeutic, educational and legal resources they need. The program also offers a variety of recreational activities for families to engage in.

- **Louisiana’s Council’s Advocacy Network (LaCAN)** provides information and support to individuals wishing to effectively advocate for systems change in the areas of home and community-based services, education, and employment. Regional LaCAN teams include individuals with disabilities, their family members, and professionals. These members are notified by email or phone when communication with state agency officials, legislators or the Governor is necessary.

REGION 7

Families Helping Families Region 7 is a part of a 10-center network located in Northwest Louisiana, proudly serving the parishes of Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, Desoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Webster. Our mission is to provide information, referral, and peer to peer support to individuals with disabilities or special needs and their families. We are a group of families who, through our own experiences, promote peer support and advocacy and are committed to alleviating hardships of other families who have members with disabilities or special needs. We provide the same core services as our sister centers throughout the state, but we do provide unique services and activities specifically to our region. In 2019 Families Helping Families Region 7 established the H.O.P.E. Closet to provide individuals with incontinent supplies, food gift cards, hand sanitizer, and face masks.

We’ve partnered with the Shreveport Mudbugs Hockey team which allow our families to attend all home games and ice-skating events free of charge. This partnership allowed us to work alongside the Mudbugs staff to create a sensory room in the arena for individuals with disabilities. At Families Helping Families Region 7 we also have a parent support group and socialization group called Hanging with Friends for self-advocates 18 and older. Both groups meet once a month to partake in community activities and peer to peer support. Partnering with Save the Children has enabled us to provide books, and clothing to our families in need. We know all our families have different needs and we’ve made it our goal to meet them where they are with love and support. We encourage all of you to follow our Facebook page Families Helping Families Region 7 to keep up to date with the events and activities happening in Region 7.

