

Recurring Funding for the Families Helping Families Regional Resource Centers

Know the Facts and Impacts

- **FHF Centers were created over 30 years ago after the passage of Act 378 of 1989 which created the Community and Family Support System (CFSS) Plan.**
- **Over 40,400 contacts were made to local FHF Centers from individuals, families, and professionals who sought and received help.**
- **Nearly 3,000 referrals to services provided**
- **Nearly 8,500 individuals attended over 400 trainings on various disability related topics**
- **Over 28,400 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. Since Fiscal Year 21, 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, year after year, this additional funding is stripped from the proposed budget despite the Council's request. Without this funding, FHF Centers will struggle to maintain their current level of service and jeopardize some FHF Centers' ability to remain open. This will hurt families and show our state's lack of commitment to fully implementing the CFSS Plan. **We need the legislature's help to ensure these additional funds are included in the FY25 budget AND tell LDH to annualize this funding in the Council's budget.**

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.