



RESTORE FUNDING FOR FAMILIES HELPING 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 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 restoring this funding and letting LDH know this funding should be annualized 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.

KNOW THE FACTS & 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 8,300 individuals attended over 380 trainings on various disability related topics
- Over 45,600 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 26,000 peer-to-peer support connections made



WHAT CAN LEGISLATORS DO?

Restore \$500,000 in State General Funds (SGF) to the DD Council's budget and request this 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.



"I felt like I was floating on the ocean and FHF reached their hand out like the Coast Guard to help me navigate the Issues with my daughter."

Butch Ferdinandsen

