



"The Family Support Program means so much to my family and me. I went from feeling like I was alone in this world fighting for help for my daughter to being surrounded by support, encouragement and more. My daughter is truly a unique little girl and there is not much known about her genetic condition or her rare form of congenital glaucoma. It is true when they say it takes a village to raise children. In a sense I feel like I finally found that village. Thank you all for all you do." ~ Program Participants

The Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) Family Support Program (FSP) is designed to assist individuals with severe or developmental disability and their families remain in their home and community.

Family Support is funded by state dollars since 1993.

**NO AGE OR INCOME REQUIREMENT*

THE PEOPLE

- > Family Support served 4,645 individuals statewide in FY 20
- > Maximum allowable per person is \$4000 in direct aid each year. The statewide average in direct aid per person was \$1,350 in FY 20
- > 1,538 individuals were on the statewide waiting list at the end of FY 20
- > Family Support is the least expensive of all programs that provide home and community-based services to people with any type of developmental disability

THE PROVIDERS

- > Family Support Services are provided in all 95 counties by 16 nonprofit agencies.
- > The agencies are guided by local volunteer councils.
- > Agencies receive a small state-funded allocation (15%) to staff and operate the program; 85% of funding goes directly to the individuals.



"Both my son and daughter are affected. We carry a gene that has been newly discovered; So while we wait in line with the thousands of others suffering newly discovered diseases, we just do everything we can to accommodate the children in the best ways we can.

My son's gait trainer will allow him independence when he loses ability to walk. My daughter is able to take dance lessons to try and help prolong biologics for her [disability] and it helps limit her physical therapy.

It allows her the opportunity to explore wigs so she can feel emotionally more confident amongst her peers. It allows us assistance with the Ronald McDonald house expenses and travel expenses. Family Support allows for those really scary hospital stays when mom is not enough, and dad has to come and help me and the kids through. I could give so many more examples of how this has impacted us so much." ~ Program Participants

FY 2020 FAST FACTS

21%

Individuals served have an intellectual disability.

79%

Individuals served have a severe or developmental disability other than an intellectual disability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Family Support Program (Statewide)

📞 800-535-9725

🌐 tn.gov/didd/family-support

