

Reauthorize the Family-to-Family Health Information Centers Program

Cosponsor H.R. 1435, the bipartisan Family-to-Family Reauthorization Act of 2025

About F2F HICs

Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2F HICs) are family-led, nonprofit organizations that provide free support and resources for families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN).

F2F HICs are uniquely positioned, as they are staffed entirely by highly skilled family members of CYSHCN with first-hand knowledge of and experience with the challenges faced by these families.

Legislative History

First authorized by Congress in 2005, the F2F HIC program was most recently reauthorized on a bipartisan basis through September 30, 2025 by H.R. 1968, the Full Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, which extended current funding of \$6 million per year. Due to budget sequestration, F2F HIC funding per grantee has decreased over the past decade, from \$95,700 in FY 2014 to \$89,136 in FY 2023.

Current funding for F2F HICs amounts to only about 41 cents per child. **H.R. 1435 would reauthorize the program through September 30, 2029, and increase funding to \$9 million per year.**



19%

19 percent of children in the United States—more than **14 million children** total—have special health care needs.

Impact of Cuts

Thirty-one percent of F2F HICs only receive federal funding. As a result of sequestration, F2F HICs have been forced to scale back or cut offerings to families, including:

- In-person including leadership training for families to offer community-based support.
- Rural outreach programs and services to rural families (transportation and bandwidth limitations predominantly affect rural areas).
- Translation services for families with limited English proficiency.

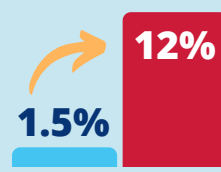
Addressing Unmet Needs

Children with special health care needs are nearly **four times as likely** to have unmet health care needs.

An estimated **5 to 11 million children** with unmet needs could benefit from services provided by Family-to-Family Health Information Centers.

3
million

Over 3 million children (4.3 percent of the under-18 population) in the US had a disability in 2019, up 0.4% since 2008.



Students with autism made up **12 percent** of the nation's schoolchildren with disabilities in 2021-22, compared with 1.5 percent in 2000-01.

Delivering for Families and Health Providers

F2F HICs serve nearly **200,000** families per year and over **90,000** health professionals.

- **92 percent** of families surveyed say the services they received from an F2F HIC met their needs, and **96 percent** reported they would recommend F2F HIC services to another family.
- **92 percent** of health professionals served by an F2F HIC reported they were satisfied with the information, and **98 percent** would recommend F2F HIC services to families or other professionals.

Reaching More Families

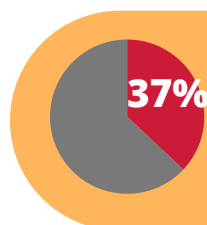
Increasing funding will allow F2F HICs to serve more families and health professionals nationwide and ensure eligible children maintain Medicaid coverage in response to recent reforms. These activities will include:

- Increasing the number and availability of family leader staff and peer mentors who provide services to CYSHCN families to help them make informed choices about health care.
- Increasing the amount of individualized, intensive support for families.
- Expanding the number of awards to tribal organizations.
- Increasing rural health outreach and rural support programs.

Saving the Government Money

F2F HICs indirectly save the government money by providing information, education, technical assistance, and peer support to families and health care professionals. They empower families to navigate health systems effectively, make informed decisions, and reduce unnecessary medical expenses. Educated families are more likely to avoid costly emergency room visits or hospitalizations through preventive care and early intervention, leading to improved health outcomes and reduced long-term costs associated with certain special needs.

Further, F2F HICs help improve employment opportunities by helping families identify and access appropriate childcare. This ensures children receive the care they need while allowing parents to remain in the workforce. By supporting families in managing their children's health needs, parents are better able to maintain employment, thereby contributing to economic stability and productivity.



37 percent of children with special health care needs did not have adequate insurance to cover needed services, 42 percent received care in a medical home, and only 22 percent received planning for the move to adult health care.