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Begun by the Division of Mental Retardation Services (now the Division of Intellectual Disabilities Services) in 1988, the Family Support program was formally established by the General Assembly in 1992. Family Support is a flexible, family-friendly program that supports Tennesseans with all types of severe disabilities to live in their own homes and communities. Family Support is a very cost-effective program that prevents many people from needing more expensive programs. Many individuals served in the program are children with severe developmental disabilities who do not qualify for Intellectual Disability Services because of diagnosis.

THE TENNESSEE FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Family Support served 4,156 individuals statewide in FY 10
- Maximum allowable per person is \$4,000 in direct aid each year. **The statewide average in direct aid per person was \$1,302 in FY 10**
- 6,237 families were on the statewide waiting list at the end of FY 10

THE FUNDING

- Statewide funding reached its highest level (\$7,679,400) in FY 05 and remained at that level until January 2009, when funding was reduced to \$6,665,237.
- Funding for FY 10 was further reduced to \$6,364,237.
- Prior to FY 10, funding came from state general appropriations. However, all but \$200,000 of funding for FY 10 came from economic stimulus recovery funds.
- Funding for FY 2011 was established at \$5,380,700 with all but \$200,000 coming from the state's Rainy Day fund.

"This is the best program ever. If I did not have this support, more times than I can count we would have been homeless."



THE PROVIDERS

Family Support Services are provided in all 95 counties by private nonprofit agencies. The agencies are guided by local volunteer councils. Agencies receive a small state funding allocation to staff and operate the program. Communities often supplement state dollars with local in-kind services and supports to families.

**PRESERVE AND PROTECT
FAMILY SUPPORT FUNDING
IF TEMPORARY FUNDING IS NOT REPLACED,
OVER 4,000 TENNESSEANS WILL LOSE
THEIR SERVICES.**

A COST-EFFECTIVE SOLUTION

COST COMPARISON ACROSS PROGRAMS (DATA COMPILED IN 2010 OR MOST RECENT AVAILABLE)

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 total (direct costs plus program operations) average annual cost in FY 2010 for each person served was only \$1,531.

Program	Average	Federal	State Share*
ICF/MR - State-operated	\$812 - 1,272	\$538 - 834	\$280 - 438
ICF/MR - Private	\$172 - 868	\$113 - 569	\$59 - 299
Nursing Homes	\$156	\$102	\$54
Waivers for persons with mental retardation (2009)	\$209	\$157	\$52
Choices Waiver	\$52	\$34	\$18
Family Support	\$4.20	\$0.00	\$4.20

* Federal and state shares are based on the temporarily enhanced federal match rate

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"Family Support is not just a name, it is what they do. Families come first. They help us better care for our disabled family members. Disability is not the end of the world, but when you meet so many obstacles and closed doors, you can feel like giving up. You are more than a number on a case file and we are always treated with respect and dignity."
- Family Support Recipient