

The Value of Family-to-Family Health Information Centers

Imagine a family that is suddenly confronted with a severely premature baby who is likely to have multiple health problems or disabilities, or discovers that their child needs a kidney transplant, or has autism, diabetes, epilepsy or a serious mental illness. They are likely to be at a loss for information about how to get the best treatment for their child –how to find the right specialists, therapists, or caretakers – and how to pay for that costly care (autism therapies, private-duty nursing, and medications, for example, can cost tens of thousands dollars per year.)

When a family receives help from a Family-to-Family Health Information Center, they can get this vital information, psychological support, and help in getting their costs covered.

This assistance:

- (1) improves health outcomes for kids;
- (2) reduces government health care spending (i.e., to Medicaid, public clinics, public hospitals) or costs to the health system in general (e.g., to families, insurance companies);
- (3) reduces government education spending (i.e., where early intervention helps to avoid or reduce the need for special education);
- (4) enables families to get care for their kids without having to face bankruptcy or spend all their kids' college funds, etc.;
- (5) enables parents to continue to work (e.g., because they can get nursing care for their child); and/or
- (6) keeps children out of costly and psychologically harmful institutional care.

Your state's Family-to-Family Health Information Center can provide examples of how they have helped families in one or more of these ways.

State contact: Nebraska

Nina Baker – Health Information Coordinator at PTI Nebraska
402-03-3908

Family Voices contacts:

Janis Guerney: jguerney@familyvoices.org or 202-546-0558
Brooke Lehmann: blehmann@familyvoices.org or 202-546-0558
Lynda Honberg: lhonberg@familyvoices.org or 301-502-1795