

I am writing to request your support for Senate Bill 1016, which directs the Department of Human Services to establish and maintain regional family support networks for families of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

When my nephew was young and his family struggled to figure out what was going on and needed support, the family networks did not exist. They needed someone who had been there to talk to, to learn what supports were available. Our community had resources but no one to point them in the right direction. Family Networks are a vital component of the success of families and the future success of people with disabilities in Oregon.

The Family Networks have worked to support the commitment of ODDS to assure people with I/DD can live lives that are fulfilling, meaningful and self-directed because families are often the first teacher, and children who learn to be self-determined grow into adults that are self-determined.

To date, the Regional Family Networks support 20 counties in Oregon, which represents 76% of the state's population. Networks cover vast geographic areas, urban and rural areas and support families from diverse cultures and languages. Collectively, these networks support more than 13,000 families who have children with I/DD.

Regional Family Networks have a collective purpose to help families plan for positive futures for their children by:

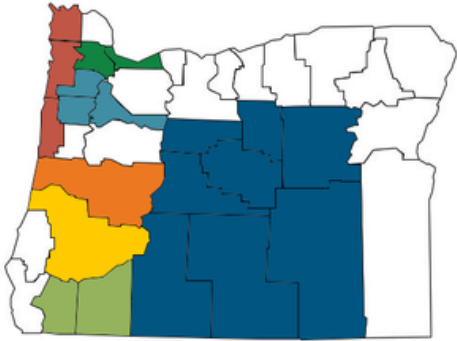
- Providing support, information, and referrals
- Helping families navigate challenging systems such as the DD and healthcare systems
- Wrapping families into a supportive and family-centered community of support
- Hosting and participating in community trainings and awareness events
- Providing leadership training and supporting families to engage in public advocacy

We respectfully request your support of SB 1016 to ensure that Regional Family Networks are recognized in statute as part of the intellectual/developmental disability services provided in Oregon.

Sincerely, Amber Robles Myre

REGIONAL FAMILY NETWORKS

SB 1606 places peer-delivered supports into the DD services infrastructure per statute.



20
counties

Regional Family Networks serve 20 Oregon counties, which represent 76% of the state's population. Many networks cover vast geographic areas, rural areas and serve families with diverse cultures and languages.

Regional Family Networks reach & connect with more than 13,500 families experiencing disability, many of whom have barriers accessing the formal developmental disability service system.

more than
13,500
families



more than
5,250
partners

Family Networks partner with more than 5,250 organizations and non-profits to make Oregon communities welcoming to all people.

Disability intersects with all other historically underrepresented families and the rates of disability in children continues to increase for families in all demographics.



Funding request of
\$1.5M per biennium.



The additional \$107,863 requested will allow each of the family networks to reach more families in need.

Current service level \$1,392,137 per 2022-23 ODDS Budget Note.
For more information, contact Elise Brown of EBI Public Affairs at:
elisebrown@ebipublicaffairs.com or 503-970-1235

REGIONAL FAMILY NETWORKS

Family Networks help families plan for a positive future for their children and provide many peer-delivered services in their communities including:

- information & referrals
- family support
- community training and awareness
- advocacy
- parent training and opportunities
- leadership training
- and much more!

**SCAN TO
LEARN
MORE**



Bridging Communities: serving Jackson & Josephine Counties - <http://bcoregon.org/>

CODSN: serving Crook, Deschutes, Grant, Harney, Jefferson, Lake, Klamath & Wheeler Counties - <http://www.codsn.org/>

COAAST: serving Clatsop, Tillamook & Lincoln Counties - <http://www.sammysplace.info/>

Creating Opportunities: serving Marion, Polk & Yamhill Counties - <https://www.creatingops.org/>

FACT Oregon: serving Washington & Multnomah Counties - <https://factoregon.org/>

**Families Connected/
Familias en Conexión:** serving Lane County - <https://arclane.org>

FEATT: serving Douglas County - <https://featt.org>

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