



Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) NORTH CAROLINA FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER (F2F) 2016 DATA REPORT

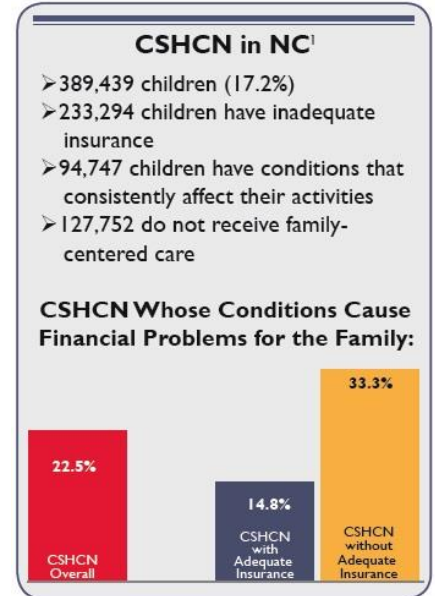
North Carolina's Family-to Family program within the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) provides information and support to NC families who have children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the professionals who serve them. ECAC's goal is to help families navigate services and make informed health care decisions. They connect families for peer support as well as work with policymakers to design effective programs and to assist in identifying successful service delivery models.

2016 IMPACT on a FAMILY

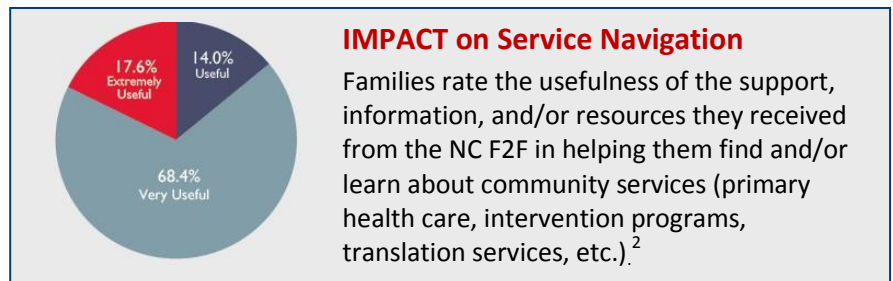
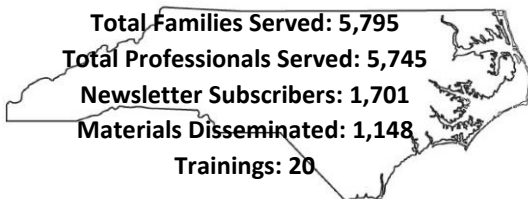
Ashley contacted ECAC asking for support, education and assistance. Her daughter has a severe neurological disorder that made oral feeding very difficult. With the support of her daughter's pediatrician, the family located a feeding program that was successful in helping her daughter to finally gain weight. After her daughter graduated from the program, Ashley attempted to advocate for feeding training for the preschool staff. She met with resistance. The school recommended a plan that would have forced her daughter into a more restrictive school setting rather than providing appropriate related services and health supports in the preschool. The NC F2F was able to help Ashley understand IDEA requirements for medically fragile children like her daughter and connected her with the appropriate regional school nurse consultant who translated the child's medical needs to staff in her preschool setting. NC F2F facilitated meetings with team members to implement an appropriate program and has provided additional information and support as requested by Ashley.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

ECAC's focus this year has been on under-served groups: Teens in transition, immigrant Spanish-speaking families, families at or near poverty, and families without insurance. Under the funding structure of the program and in response to the changing ways of increasing knowledge, they are shifting from an on-site workshop model to delivering content electronically and via social media. This NC F2F is moving from costly print resources to electronic resources. An effort to work with tertiary medical center in order to realize a broader impact is also ongoing. They continue to monitor and partner with the protection and advocacy organization, with state agencies and with university partners to get information about Waiver changes to families. ECAC is looking at the organizational structure of our agency in an effort to streamline the work of various projects in order to capitalize on lived experience, skills and programmatic content, and knowledge to better support NC families and professionals.



OUTREACH²



CONTACT

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¹National Survey of Children with Special Health Care Needs. NS-CSHCN 2009/10. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative. Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved 04/03/2014 from www.childhealthdata.org.
²FY2016 F2F data represents families and professionals served through one-to-one contact, training, and broader outreach from June 1, 2015 through May 31, 2016.
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