



# Other Services for People with Disabilities

## **Individual and Family Support**

Individual and Family Support (IFS) provides immediate access to services (if funding is available) for people with developmental disabilities in crisis situations, most of whom are on the waiver waiting list. IFS is provided to those in the most desperate need, rather than first-come, first-served.

IFS is cost effective. Statewide, the average annual cost per person in FY15 for IFS was only \$2,578. It is funded and administered through the Human Services Districts/Authorities. Funding for IFS in almost all areas of the state is insufficient to meet the current demand. Without IFS, more individuals with developmental disabilities are at risk of out-of-home placement.

IFS services are flexible to meet the needs of the individual. Examples include crisis intervention, respite care and specialized therapies such as assistance for challenging behaviors.

## **State Personal Assistance Services (SPAS)**

The SPAS program provides supports and services to adults who have significant physical disabilities. SPAS enables these adults to live in their own homes, work, and fully participate in their communities. The supports provided are needed to assist individuals in getting out of bed, eating, bathing, getting dressed, and other activities of daily living.

The average cost of SPAS is \$22,000/year compared to \$47,000/year in a nursing home. This program is funded by the Office of Aging and Adult Services, and services are provided by the Arc of LA.

## **Flexible Family Fund**

The Flexible Family Fund provides assistance to families of children with the most severe disabilities to assist in meeting the extraordinary costs in caring for their children at home. A screening process is used to determine the severity of disability so only the children with the most severe disabilities qualify.

This program is funded and administered by the Human Services Districts/Authorities and there is a long waiting list across the state.

## **Families Helping Families (FHF) Regional Resource Centers**

The FHF Centers are family-directed resource centers providing information and referral, peer-to-peer support, and education and training to individuals with disabilities and their families. The centers are located throughout the state and are the only “one-stop shops” in LA providing support to all individuals with disabilities and their families. Over 35,900 contacts were made to the regional centers in FY15.