

# Family Support Services Program Year End Report – June 2021

Mesa Developmental Services, 790 Wellington Avenue Grand Junction CO 81501



## FY 2020-2021 Review

Family Support Services Program (FSSP) provides support to families who have a child with a developmental disability with costs that are beyond those normally experienced by other families. The primary purpose of FSSP is to reduce caregiver stress, ease the burden of care, and support children with disabilities in remaining within their own nurturing family home. FSSP is a family driven program and was developed as a partnership between families and publicly funded supports. The individual's and family's circumstances and needs are the primary consideration for determining the appropriate types of services that can best assist a family with the least disruption to family lifestyle. Allocations are twice per year and can be used to pay for services such as respite care, professional services, home modifications, assistive technology and medical and dental services not covered by insurance. A total of **80** families were actively funded in FSSP for the fiscal year ending June 2021. We had no families on the waitlist.

The total amount of direct funds expended for FY 2020-2021 was **\$181638.43**, with specific spending per category as follows:

○ Respite:	\$132748.70
○ Professional Services:	\$22718.98
○ Assistive Technology:	\$13636.51
○ Other:	\$3770.48
○ Environmental Engineering:	\$2888.38
○ Transportation:	\$2709.44
○ Medical/Dental:	\$903.94
○ Parent/Sibling Support:	\$150.00
○ Program Expense:	\$2112.00

FY 2020-21 continued to see significant restrictions due to COVID. Our building remains closed to the public and families saw an overall general decrease in available service providers. Respite utilization was at an all-time high; the result of being able to use family and friends as caregivers. The only program expense cost was for one full-time staff, to include outreach and participation with other community agencies in the development, maintenance, and operation of projects: \$2112.00 (approximately 118 outreach hours).

The intended outcome for this program is an improved quality of life for everyone in the family. The following objectives were set forth by the Family Support Council for fiscal year 2020-21:

1. *To increase our collaboration with the school district to include the Superintendent of District 51 in outreach efforts. -objective partially met. COVID restrictions and retirement notice from the current Superintendent will delay progress.*
2. *To continue outreach to families with the implementation of parent support groups, in addition, we will also use program expense funds to facilitate social events for families (i.e., Sensory Christmas and beginning of summer fun events). -objective not met. COVID restrictions halted all groups and social events.*
3. *To continue to prevent unwanted out-of-home placement by ensuring our highest needs children receive funding priority. This will continue to be accomplished by categorizing needs as “high”, “moderate”, and “low” and funding accordingly. This is an on-going goal. -objective met*

## **FY 2021-2022**

An overview of FSSP is given on the MDS website, including how to access the program, in addition to all year end reports. Our outreach and education efforts continue as we regularly present to outside agencies on the services MDS provides and participate in inter-agency committees.

Our Family Support Council will continue to have quarterly meetings to provide greater assistance with the implementation of the program. Their focus remains on creating a supportive network for our families. If funding and COVID restrictions allow, we will utilize the program expense category for social events and activities designed to promote a community of parent-to-parent support and learning.

MDS and FSSP continues to support the State philosophy that ‘families are the greatest resource available to individuals who have a developmental disability and families must be supported in their role as primary caregivers’. We are continually striving to ensure FSSP is a valuable part of our families’ support network.

The following objectives were set forth by the Family Support Council for fiscal year 2021-22:

1. *To continue collaboration efforts with the school district, to include the incoming Superintendent of District 51, but also broadening the outreach circle to various key district employees and committees involved in special education.*
2. *To continue outreach and support to families in a manner that is safe under COVID guidelines, with an emphasis on the implementation of parent-to-parent support groups. Efforts will focus on the virtual realm until in-person activities can be resumed.*
3. *To continue to prevent unwanted out-of-home placement by ensuring our highest needs children receive funding priority. This will continue to be accomplished by categorizing needs as “high”, “moderate”, and “low” and funding accordingly. This is an on-going goal.*

