

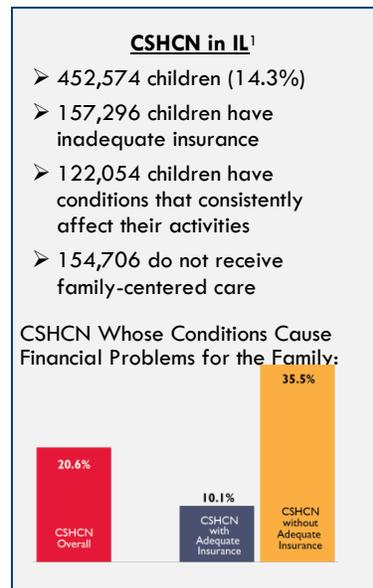
Family Voices of Illinois, The Arc of Illinois Family-to-Family Health Information Center, offers free services for families of children and youth with special needs. We provide information directly to families and professionals seeking help via toll-free multi-lingual information line, email and in person. We offer in-depth training and technical assistance on health issues for CSHCN; leadership development for parents and organizations; and linkages to local, regional, statewide and national partners.

**2015 HIGHLIGHT: Health Care Reform**

A highlight of this past year was our annual **Update on Health Care Reform Conference**. Over one hundred family members, self-advocates, and professionals attended this outstanding event to learn more about how current health care reform is impacting the lives of individuals with disabilities, as well as how health care reform impacts practitioners who work with individuals with disabilities. Speakers included representatives from the Illinois Department of Insurance, Get Covered Illinois, AgeOptions, Cook County Health and Hospital Systems, and the Illinois Attorney General’s Health Care Bureau. Topics included: the Illinois Marketplace, Medicaid reform, Medicare, private insurance, and disability advocacy.

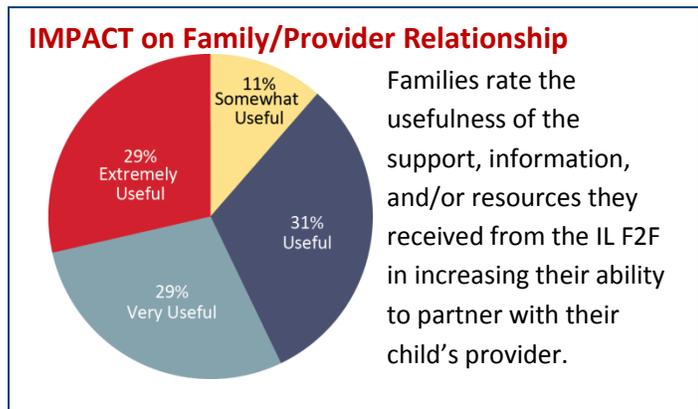
**A FAMILY**

Over a several month period, the F2F in IL provided extensive assistance to a family of a newborn with a rare genetic disorder. The baby was released from the NICU with medical complications and needed specialized care services, including a feeding tube. The family struggled to find childcare that allowed them to continue to work so that they could maintain their health insurance. F2F staff connected the family with the Title V CSHCN program to apply for the Medicaid waiver for children who are medically fragile and technology dependent; linked the family with first responders in the community to include this child in their database of residents with medical needs; guided the family to pursue financial options, including income tax solutions as well as locally-based charitable resources; helped the family understand Medicaid program eligibility, including income-based coverage options, the spenddown program and the Third-Party Liability program; and referred the family to the Rare Disease Council, a group of parents in Illinois who provide telephone-based support to other families. Family Feedback: *I am finally getting some help from local care managers and social workers. Thank you for all your help and information.*”



**CONTACT**

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<sup>1</sup>National 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](http://www.childhealthdata.org).  
<sup>2</sup>FY2015 F2F data represents families and professionals served through one-to-one contact, training, and broader outreach from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015. This report was developed by Family Voices National Center for Family/Professional Partnerships ([www.fv-ncfpp.org](http://www.fv-ncfpp.org)) under grant number U40MC00149, funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.