



# The Family Café

*“Collaboration, Advocacy, Friendship, and Empowerment!”*

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## What is The Family Café?

The Family Café, a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides **information and training to individuals with disabilities and their families**, has been in existence since 1998. It provides the people it serves with an opportunity for **collaboration, advocacy, friendship and empowerment** by serving as a facilitator of communication, a space for dialogue and a source of information.

The organization was **founded by families** who found that they needed information and resources to navigate the service delivery system in Florida. They created **The Annual Family Café, a unique three-day event** to bring together individuals with disabilities and their families with state agencies, nonprofit organizations and other service providers, so families can network with each other, learn what services are available to them, and find out the best way to go about accessing those services.



## What does The Family Café do?

The Family Café provides tremendous value to the State of Florida:

- Hosts the **largest statewide cross-disability event in the nation, The Annual Family Café**, which attracted **12,842 attendees in 2019** and **over 300k views of the virtual event in 2020**
- Hosts **The Annual Governor’s Summit on Disabilities** where Florida’s Governor and other policy makers can engage in dialogue with individuals with disabilities and their families
- Provides resources and information to families on **state agency waitlists** for services, and **connects state agencies with those they serve**, with **29% of attendees on a waitlist** and **20% of presentations** delivered by Florida state agencies
- Provides a **cost-effective** means for outreach and training, with a **cost per training hour per Annual Family Café attendee** of roughly \$1.72
- Produces **The Questions & Answers Book** resource guide every fall, with authoritative responses to real-world questions from Florida families
- Promotes leadership and advocacy among youth with disabilities through **The Florida Youth Council**, whose **Virtual 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit** received **35k views in 2020**
- Hosts the **“Let’s Talk!” Legislative Conference Call series** during Florida’s legislative session, to keep advocates informed about legislative policy developments
- Supports, networks, and empowers Floridians with disabilities and their families **year round**, through local resource development by the **Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM) project**, the **Disability Advocacy Hour** podcast, the **Change Agent Network** newsletter, and ongoing information and referral



**The Family Café \* 888-309-CAFÉ \* [www.familycafe.net](http://www.familycafe.net) \* @TheFamilyCafe**

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See You Next Year!

at the **23rd** annual **Family CAFÉ**  
June 11 - 13, 2021 • Orlando

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 The Family Café is on Facebook!

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*Attention!*

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NOVEMBER 14 - 15, 2020

# Join the momentum!

Take part in The Family Café's newest program, the Family-Run Organization Movement (FROM)!

**The Mission of FROM is to engage, support, empower and advocate for family, youth and peer-run organizations.** FROM will provide a wide range of supports and services, including leadership training, governance enhancement, program support, monthly collaborative forums, a program newsletter, and other resources to help organizations attain new levels of participation in the system of care.

Local family-run organizations are a critical part of the service delivery system, bringing families and youth together, connecting them with information, resources, and each other. FROM is here to help them thrive!

To join and get more information please see the FROM link at [www.familycafe.net](http://www.familycafe.net) or call 850-224-4670

