



FASD: What Policy Makers Should Know

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are a group of conditions that can occur in a person exposed to alcohol before birth. These conditions can affect each person in different ways. People with FASDs can have lifelong effects, including challenges with behavior and learning as well as physical problems. Individuals with FASD also show a wide range of strengths.¹

How can legislators support the FASD community?



The Estimated Rate of FASD:
1 in 20

Federal legislators can:

- **Fund FASD** by supporting a \$21.5 m investment in FASD programs at the CDC (\$10m over FY26 enacted). This modest investment is a necessary step towards implementing recently authorized FASD programs.

State and local legislators can:

- Prepare your state by designating an **FASD Coordinator** and creating a **State FASD Task Force** (PHSA 399H(b))
- **Build FASD-informed systems** by examining how FASD fits into your healthcare, education, and child welfare systems.

Section 104 of the SUPPORT Reauthorization Act of 2025 (P.L. 119-44)² is the first reauthorization of federal FASD programs for over 20 years. This re-establishes and modernizes the federal approach to FASD by authorizing the following:

- **Updating a comprehensive FASD program** for awareness, prevention, identification, intervention, and service delivery (PHSA Section 399H(a))
- **Continued research** on diagnosis and prevention (PHSA Section 399H(a)(2))
- **Building state and tribal capacity to address FASD.** Includes adapting existing programs to include FASD-related activities (PHSA Section 399H(a)(3))
- Establish a **definition of FASD-informed**
- **Awarding grants to for state, tribal, and nationwide public awareness** and education activities, as well as technical assistance (PHSA Section 399I)
- **Authorizing \$12.5 million** FY26-FY30 for all authorized programs

FASD awareness and funding do not match its prevalence:

Rate of FASD³: 1 in 20 Americans

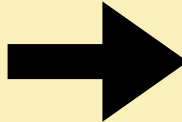
Rate of Down syndrome⁴: 1 in 640 Americans

Rate of autism⁵: 1 in 31 Americans



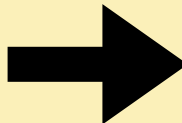
Federal funding for FASD is 10 times less per person than for other, less common developmental disabilities.

Federal FASD programs were first authorized in **1998**⁶ in the amount of



\$27 million

Authorization lapsed in **2007**, and annual programmatic funding for FASD has dropped to



\$12.5 million

This is a 54% decrease.



FASD deserves an updated investment.



Check out the events page on our policy website to get involved.



Sources

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4. CDC. (2024). Living with Down syndrome. <https://www.cdc.gov/birth-defects/living-with-down-syndrome/index.html>
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Published 8/2026