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As the data reflects, family-run organizations have significantly expanded their supports to a much broader demographic of families and their children. Many FROs now navigate the breath of child-serving systems and support children, youth and young adults across multiple diagnostic profiles. This evolution is challenging the capacity of FROs to meet the hiring and training needs of an expanding workforce. As this new generation of families looks to the FROs for services and supports, the need to create new partnerships and identify new funding streams is of paramount importance.

Implicit in this evolution is the need for a more heterogeneous mix of family peers to ensure fidelity to the value of “lived experience”. As noted in the data, many FROs are currently addressing this challenge while others are struggling to make this shift.

Q7 is particularly instructive as it illustrates the myriad of services and supports that the FROs are providing in an attempt to meet the needs of their communities. This commitment to meeting needs is taxing already limited resources and can overwhelm the capacity of the organization if additional funding and training opportunities are not available. To ensure that this expansion of services and supports to families is successful, the FROs will need strong partnerships with funders, child-serving agencies, and community leaders.