

PROJECT ACCESS



Epilepsy affects over 3 million Americans.

What is Epilepsy??

Epilepsy is a neurological condition. A seizure is a symptom of epilepsy. A diagnosis of epilepsy is generally given after a person experiences two or more unprovoked seizures.

Known causes of epilepsy include head injuries, stroke, brain tumors, poisoning, problems in brain development before birth, and serious infections such as encephalitis or meningitis. However, more than half the time, the cause of epilepsy is unknown.

The Epilepsy Foundation has a network of affiliates nationwide that provide services in their local communities. To locate an affiliate in your area, call us toll-free or visit our website's home page and type in your zip code under 'community connections.'

For more info contact:

Program Objectives

In the United States, children, youth and families affected by epilepsy often lack access to organized community-based health care services and family-centered systems of care. As a result, these families are prevented from receiving appropriate and timely medical treatment and essential family support services. The system and its service gaps emphasize the need for public and private organizations to collaborate in the development, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to improve access to care for children, youth and families impacted by epilepsy, especially racial and ethnic minorities residing in medically underserved areas and rural populations.

Project Access is a national effort designed to improve access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for children and youth with epilepsy. The project consists of active participation on the part of state agencies, physicians and other health care providers, families, schools, and community resources to implement demonstration projects in states to improve access to health services and to achieve early detection and treatment for children and youth with epilepsy and seizure disorders.

The Epilepsy Foundation supports states to:

- develop public education campaigns to raise awareness about epilepsy;
- develop skill building programs for youth and families with epilepsy;
- develop and disseminate resources on trends and issues related to access to care for children and youth with epilepsy;
- provide forums to stimulate discussion about strategies to reduce the shortage of epilepsy providers.

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Available Resources

- Additional information, products and tools can be acquired at: www.accessforepilepsy.org
- CD-ROM with products and tools created by the state demonstration grantees can be downloaded and customized for individual use.