



PUBLIC HEALTH RESOURCES FOR PRIMARY CARE CHILDREN'S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

One in five (20.8 percent) children age 17 or younger in Michigan has special health care needs, meaning they have, or are at increased risk for, a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition that requires health care and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

Slightly less than half (45.5 percent) of Michigan children with special health care needs have multiple acute or chronic conditions. Black, non-Hispanic Michigan children have the highest prevalence of special health care needs (27.0 percent), followed by White, non-Hispanic children (21.3%), other non-Hispanic children (14.5 percent), and Hispanic children (13.3 percent). ([National Survey of Children's Health, 2011/12](#))

The Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) program works to meet the needs of these children and support their families by providing:

- coverage and referral for specialty medical care, based upon the individual's health condition(s);¹
- family-centered services that support the family as primary caregiver for the child;
- community-based services that help families maintain normal routines and care for children at home;
- culturally competent services that demonstrate awareness of cultural differences; and
- coordination of services from many different providers within a number of agencies.

PROGRAM

Eligibility Criteria

Several factors help determine whether an individual is eligible for CSHCS:

- *Medical condition* The individual must have one or more of the [nearly 2,700 qualifying medical diagnoses](#), (e.g. cancer, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, sickle cell anemia, cystic fibrosis). The severity and chronicity of the condition, as well as the need for at least annual medical care and treatment by a medical or surgical sub-specialist, also are considered.
- *Age* Children must have a qualifying medical condition and be 20 years old or under. Adults who are 21 years old or older may also qualify if they have cystic fibrosis or certain hereditary blood coagulation disorders commonly known as hemophilia.
- *Residency* The child or adult must be a Michigan resident.
- *Citizenship status* The individual must be a U.S. citizen, a documented non-citizen who has been legally admitted by the United States for permanent residence, or a legally admitted, non-citizen migrant farm worker (i.e., seasonal agricultural worker). (*Note: Children of migrant workers may receive CSHCS coverage if their parents are working or looking for work in the state. The citizenship requirements do not apply to the children of migrant workers who are otherwise eligible for CSHCS.*)
- *Financial factors* are not considered when determining CSHCS eligibility. The program accepts families at every income level.

¹ CSHCS is not considered insurance under the Affordable Care Act. It only covers those services or treatments directly related to the client's qualifying diagnosis(es). It does *not* cover primary care, preventive care, acute care for non-covered conditions, or mental health care.

Cost

Although there is an income-based fee to join the program, it is waived if the child or an adult family member is enrolled in Medicaid or MiChild.

The parents of many children with CSHCS coverage have private health insurance, and the program provides additional help to these families. In cases in which CSHCS is combined with other coverage, CSHCS is the “payer of last resort.”

CHILDREN'S SPECIAL NEEDS FUND

The Children’s Special Needs Fund is a privately-supported program within CSHCS that may help families buy certain equipment such as van lifts, wheelchair ramps, and therapeutic tricycles. To find out more about the CNS fund, go to www.michigan.gov/csnfund, email csnfund@michigan.gov or call (517) 241-7420.

WEB RESOURCES

[Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center](#)

- www.f2fmichigan.org
- [Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#)

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center (MI F2F) is part of a federal initiative, providing information and education on disability and health-related issues to families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and the professionals who serve them.

[Family Support Subsidy Program](#)

- www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-2941_4868_7145-14670--,00.html

The Family Support Subsidy Program provides financial assistance to families that include a child with severe developmental disabilities. The intent is to help make it possible for children with developmental disabilities to remain with, or return to, their birth or adoptive families.

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#)

- www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Alliance for Families is Michigan’s federally funded Parent Training and Information Center. The Alliance serves families of children with disabilities statewide, connecting them with resources to help improve their children’s education.

[Early On Michigan](#)

- www.1800earlyon.org

Early On Michigan offers early intervention services for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with developmental delay(s) and/or disabilities, and their families.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about public resources or CHILDREN’S SPECIAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES, please contact:

- Local health department’s CSHCS office ([Online Directory, by County](#))
- CSHCS Family Center Phone Line: 1-800-359-3722