

Special Education

Special education helps children at school.

Project Find helps connect any child who might need special education with their local school district. For more information, call 1-800-252-0052 or visit www.projectfindmichigan.org.

The **Center for Educational Networking** has information about the education of people with disabilities. Visit www.cenmi.org to view the directory of Michigan service providers or call 1-888-463-7656.

Financial Support

State and federal programs help many families. Eligibility is based on child's diagnosis and family income.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a federal program for some children with disabilities. Families with children who qualify receive monthly payments. To find out more, call the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213 or visit www.ssa.gov and search for SSI.

The **Family Support Subsidy Program** provides monthly payments. Families whose child has severe cognitive impairment or autism spectrum disorder may qualify. Apply through your local Community Mental Health Services Program. Visit www.michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth and look under 'Children & Families.'

The **Children with Special Needs Fund** helps pay for special equipment. Families with a child eligible for Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) may qualify. Apply at your local health department or by calling 1-800-359-3722.

Genetic Counseling

Genetics clinics help families find out about a child's diagnosis. They answer questions about what to expect in the future and if the same condition could affect other people in the family. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) **Genetics Program** has information about genetics clinics in the state. Call 1-866-852-1247 or visit www.MiGRC.org for more information.

National Organizations

To find out if there is a national group that deals with your child's diagnosis, call the **Genetic Alliance** at (202)966-5557, or see www.geneticalliance.org.

Parent Advocacy Coalition for Educational Rights (PACER) is a parent training and information center for families of children and youth with all disabilities from birth through 21 years old. Visit www.pacer.org.

National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) is dedicated to helping people with rare diseases. Call 1-800-999-6673 or see www.rarediseases.org.

The **Fathers Network** celebrates and supports fathers and families raising children with special health care needs and developmental disabilities. Call (425) 653-4286 or see www.fathersnetwork.org.

The **National Birth Defects Prevention Network (NBDPN)** is committed to helping all those with birth defects live happy and healthy lives through research and surveillance that leads to improved care and better access to services.



Facts about Michigan's Birth Defects Registry

- * More than 7,000 infants and toddlers with birth defects, chronic illnesses and developmental disabilities are identified each year.
- * Michigan law requires hospitals and medical labs to report certain health conditions to the MBDR.
- * Information in the MBDR is confidential.
- * The MBDR helps Michigan families get information, services and support.
- * Registry data is used to track the rate of birth defects, develop prevention plans, and help communities improve services.

For more information or additional copies of this pamphlet, please contact:

The Birth Defects Follow-Up Program
Michigan Department of Community Health
201 Townsend Street, Fourth Floor
Lansing, MI 48913
1-866-852-1247 Toll-Free
1-517-335-8887
1-517-335-9790 FAX
1-517-335-8246 TTY
Email: BDRFollowup@michigan.gov



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Resources for Families of Infants and Toddlers with Special Health Needs



Michigan Department of Community Health
Birth Defects Follow-up Program

After the birth or adoption of a child with special needs, parents sometimes have questions. Families may wonder where to get help.

There are many programs in Michigan. Most are free.

Many are run by parents who want to share information.

This pamphlet explains some of the resources available to families who have children

with special needs. Your family might benefit from these

services now or in the future.



Family Support

The **Birth Defects Follow-up Program** at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) helps with referrals for support and services. The program provides information for families and health care providers. For questions or to ask for materials, call 1-866-852-1247, e-mail BDRFollowup@michigan.gov, go to www.michigan.gov/birthdefectsinfo or visit www.MiGRC.org.

The **Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs** has information and support for families of children with all types of special needs. To contact the center, call the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722, e-mail cshcsfc@michigan.gov or visit www.michigan.gov/cshcs and click on the Family Center link.

Bridges4Kids is run by parents. It has information for parents of all children from birth to adult life. Special focus is on children with disabilities, special needs, or who are at-risk. For more information visit www.bridges4kids.org.

Your local **Community Mental Health Program** helps families in many ways. A case manager can help with services that fit your family's needs. Respite care is one example. Families get a short break from caring for their child with special needs. Go to www.michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth to find links to local community services.

Michigan Alliance for Families has information folders, a lending library and one-on-one support for families with children with special needs. Parents oversee the center and answer calls at 1-800-552-4821. See the website at <http://michiganallianceforfamilies.org>.

Parent HELPLINE is for anyone who needs help *right away*. It is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Trained counselors provide crisis counseling, support and information. The free, confidential number is 1-800-942-HELP.

Special Health Care

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) helps with referrals and payments for medical care and support. Many children with special health care needs are eligible. Call 1-800-359-3722 for information.

Children's Waiver Program helps families take care of their children in their own homes. Children with challenging conditions may qualify. Learn more and look up eligibility at www.michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth under 'Children & Families' or call (517) 241-5757.

Hospice/Palliative Care

Hospice and palliative care programs serve children with life-limiting conditions. Some programs offer care and support *during pregnancy* when a life-limiting condition has been diagnosed in a family's unborn child. For information, call 1-866-852-1247, e-mail BDRFollowup@michigan.gov or visit www.mihospice.org.

Special Products

New technology and products help children with special needs. **Michigan's Integrative Technology Supports (MITS)** has information. Staff can help you find adaptive devices, special toys, clothing, equipment, and much more. Call 1-517-908-3930, or see mits.cenmi.org.

Early Intervention

Early On® Michigan is one of the most important supports for children with special needs. It provides services for eligible children from birth to age three. The services may include:

- family training (skill building)
- counseling (family, group or individual)
- home visits
- special instruction (teaching)
- speech pathology
- hearing and vision services
- occupational therapy
- physical therapy
- psychological services
- service coordination
- diagnostic medical services
- screening
- assessment services
- health services
- nursing services
- social work services
- assistive technology devices and services
- nutritional counseling
- transportation

For more information, call 1-800-Early-On (1-800-327-5966) voice, (517) 668-2505 (TTY) or visit www.1800earlyon.org/.

