

Education

[Build Up Michigan](#) helps connect any child who is suspected of having a disability and who may need special education to services. For more information, visit [BuildUpMi.org](#) or dial the Michigan Special Education Line at 888-320-8384.

The [Center for Educational Networking](#) has information about the education of people with disabilities. Visit [cenmi.org](#) to view the directory of Michigan service providers or call 888-463-7656.

Financial Support

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

[Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\)](#) is a federal program for some children with disabilities. Monthly payments go to families with children who qualify. To learn more, call the Social Security Administration at 800-772-1213 or visit [ssa.gov](#) and search for SSI.

The [Family Support Subsidy Program](#) provides monthly payments. Families with a child who has severe cognitive impairment or autism spectrum disorder may qualify. Apply through your local Community Mental Health Services Program. Visit [Michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth](#).

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 800-359-3722 or visit [Michigan.gov/CSNFund](#).

Genetic Counseling

Genetics clinics help families learn more about a child's diagnosis. They answer questions about what to expect in the future and if the same condition may affect other family members. The Michigan Genetics Resource Center and the Michigan Association of Genetic Counselors have information about genetics clinics in the state. Call 866-852-1247 or visit [MiGRC.org](#) and [MAGCInc.org](#).

National Organizations

To find out if there is a national group for your child's diagnosis, call the [Genetic Alliance](#) at 202-966-555, or visit [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 [pacer.org](#).

[National Organization for Rare Disorders \(NORD\)](#) is dedicated to helping people with rare diseases. Call 800-999-6673 or visit [rarediseases.org](#).

The [Fathers Network](#) celebrates and supports fathers and families raising children with special health care needs and disabilities. Call 425-653-4286 or visit [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. Visit: [EndBirthDefects.org](#).

Facts about Michigan's Birth Defects Registry (MBDR)

- * More than 14,000 infants and toddlers with birth defects are identified each year.
- * Michigan law requires hospitals and labs to report certain birth defects 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:

Birth Defects Education, Outreach and Surveillance Program
333 S. Grand Ave., Second Floor
Lansing, MI 48913

866-852-1247 Toll-Free
517-335-6498
517-335-9790 FAX

Email: BDRFollowup@michigan.gov

Resources for Families of Infants and Toddlers with Special Health Care Needs



Michigan Birth Defects Education, Outreach and Surveillance Program



This publication was supported by Cooperative Agreement #CDC-RFA-DD21-2101 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

After the birth or adoption of a child with special health care 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 brochure 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

[MDHHS Birth Defects Education, Outreach and Surveillance Program](#) provides referrals for services and support, information for families and healthcare providers, and tracks birth defect data. For questions or to request information call 866-852-1247 or visit [Michigan.gov/birthdefectsinfo](#).

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. Families may apply for scholarships to help cover the costs of summer camp and educational conferences. Call the Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722, e-mail cschcsfc@michigan.gov or visit [Michigan.gov/cshcs](#).

[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 [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, for example, gives families a short break from caring for their child with special needs. Visit [michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth](#).

[Michigan Alliance for Families](#) is a statewide resource to connect families of children with disabilities to resources to improve their children's education. Parents oversee the center and answer calls at 800-552-4821. Visit [Michiganallianceforfamilies.org](#).

[Michigan's Family to Family Health Information Center](#) (MI F2F) shares information and resources on disability and health issues with families and professionals. Visit [F2Fmichigan.org](#).

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 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 [Michigan.gov/michiganmentalhealth](#) under 'Medicaid Waivers' or call 517-241-5757 for information.

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 517-349-8089 or visit [MHHA.org](#).

Special Products

New technology and products help children with special needs. [Alt + Shift](#) has information. Staff can help you find adaptive devices, special toys, clothing, equipment, and much more. Call 517-908-3930, email info@altshift.education or visit [altshift.education](#).

Early Intervention

[Early On® Michigan](#) is one of the most important supports for children with developmental delays or are at risk for delays due to certain health conditions. It provides services for eligible children from birth to age three, which 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

For more information, call 800-*Early-On*, 800-327-5966, or visit [1800earlyon.org](#).

