

Special Education

Special education helps children at school. [Project Find](#) 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 1-888-320-8384.

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 1-888-463-7656.

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 1-800-772-1213 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](#) 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 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 1-866-852-1247 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 1-202-966-555, or see [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 1-800-999-6673 or see [rarediseases.org](#).

The [Fathers Network](#) celebrates and supports fathers and families raising children with special health care needs and disabilities. Call 1-425-653-4286 or see [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

- * 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:

Birth Defects Education
and Outreach Program

333 S. Grand Ave., Second Floor
Lansing, MI 48913

1-866-852-1247 Toll-Free
1-517-335-6498
1-517-335-9790 FAX

Email: BDRFollowup@michigan.gov

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Resources for Families of Infants and Toddlers with Special Health Needs



**Michigan Birth Defects Education and
Outreach Program**

MDHHS
Michigan Department of Health & Human Services
GRETCHEN WHITMER, GOVERNOR | ROBERT GORDON, DIRECTOR

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

MDHHS [Birth Defects Education and Outreach Program](#) helps with referrals for support and services. The program provides information for families and health care providers. For questions or to ask for materials, e-mail BDRFollowup@michigan.gov, call 866-852-1247, visit MiGRC.org, or go to 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](#) 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 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 the **[MI F2F](#)** at <https://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 866-852-1247, e-mail BDRFollowup@michigan.gov or visit Mihospice.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 special needs. 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
- Nursing services

For more information, call 1-800-*Early-On*, 1-800-327-5966, or visit 1800earlyon.org/.

