

Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) Including Physically Handicapped Children's Program

Program Goal

To achieve a statewide system of care for CSHCN and their families that links them to appropriate health and related services, identifies gaps and barriers and assists in their resolution, and assures access to quality health care.

Eligibility

CSHCN are children 0-21 years who have or are suspected of having a serious or chronic physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

Eligibility is determined by the county health units.

Description

The Children with Special Health Care Needs Program (CSHCN) is a statewide public health program that provides information and referral services for health and related areas for families of CSHCN. In addition, some of the local CSHCN programs offer case management services.

The CSHCN program also has a financial component, the Physically Handicapped Children's Program (PHCP). The PHCP assists families in paying medical bills for children with severe chronic illnesses and/or physical disabilities, between birth and 21 years of age, who live in New York State and meet county medical and financial eligibility criteria.

The PHCP is located in most county health units. Prior authorization from the local PHCP must be obtained for all services. The PHCP has two components: the Diagnosis and Evaluation Program (D&E) and the Treatment Program. The D&E program will reimburse specialty providers for the diagnosis and development of a treatment plan for eligible children. The treatment program will reimburse specialty providers for the ongoing health and related services for children who are medically and financially eligible in their county of residence. The county standards are designed to assist families with low incomes or inadequate private health insurance to obtain medical services for their children.

For Information

Call the New York State Health Department's Growing Up Healthy Hotline, 1-800-522-5006, or contact your local county health department. (In New York City, contact the Bureau for Families and Community Health Services of the New York City Health Department at (212) 676-2950.