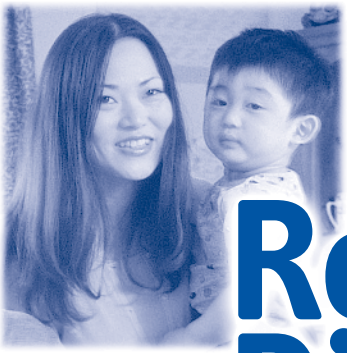

MedicalHome

Resource Directory

for Children and Young Adults with Special Health Care Needs

New York State Department of Health

Introduction

This resource directory is for the families of children and young adults who have a serious illness or long-lasting condition for which they need extra health care and support services.

Children and young adults with special health care needs might have a serious or long-lasting:

- Physical condition.
- Intellectual or developmental disability.
- Behavioral or emotional condition.

A few examples of such conditions include cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, asthma, sickle cell anemia, diabetes, heart conditions, depression, mental retardation or developmental disability, conduct disorder, autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

In this directory you'll find programs to help your family obtain and pay for the special services you might need. This directory can point you in the right direction, but it can't answer all your questions. For the programs that interest you, please call the phone numbers at the end of each section to talk to a staff person.

You can find more information about these and other programs at the NYS Department of Health website: **www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs.**

This directory is available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, French, Italian, Korean and Polish. These can be downloaded at the above website.

To order copies of this directory, send a request to:

NYS Department of Health Distribution Center
21 Simmons Lane
Menands, NY 12204

Fax: (518) 465-0432 or e-mail it to: B0019W@health.state.ny.us

Be sure to include the name of the publication you are requesting, including the language.

Words to Help You Use This Directory

Adaptive Devices and **Assistive Technology:** Technology and tools that have been changed so that people with disabilities can more easily use them. Examples include phones with text, speech recognition software, cars with lifts, and extra large keyboards.

Developmental Disability: A physical or mental condition, such as Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, vision or hearing impairment, that has a high chance of leading to a developmental delay. A "delay" means that the child is behind in at least one area of development (physical, mental, communication, social, or emotional), compared to what is typical for children of his or her age.

Environmental Modifications: Changes in the home and community to increase safety and independence. They can include grab bars in bathrooms, wider doorways, and wheelchair ramps.

Eligibility: Programs set rules about who is able to receive services and who is not. People who can receive services are "eligible" for services, and those who cannot are "ineligible." Eligibility is often based on such things as income, age, health condition and location.

Growing Up Healthy Hotline: A phone number you can call to get more information for any program in this directory. An operator will help you identify the services you need and provide information on how to locate a provider in your area. This hotline provides information and referral 24 hours/day, seven days a week in English, Spanish and other languages. All calls are confidential.

Call **1-800-522-5006**, or through **T**ele**TY**pewriter (TTY) access at **1-800-655-1789**.

Medicaid: A government program that pays for health care services for people with low income and resources.

Medicaid Waiver: The Medicaid Waiver programs in this booklet "waive" or remove some of the usual requirements for getting Medicaid services. The purpose of waiver programs is to help people stay in their home community by paying for home and community-based services, instead of institutional care.

Waiver programs for children in New York State include:

- Care at Home.
- Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).
- Bridges to Health.

The names for the waiver programs in this booklet start with one of the three titles above, and end with the name of the special group of people they serve. For example: "Care at Home Medicaid Waiver for Developmentally Disabled Children."

Respite Care: A time of rest or relief for the caregiver. A trained person provides companionship and supervision for a person who needs extra help, allowing the caregiver time to take care of themselves.

TTY: TTY stands for **T**ele**TY**pewriter, which is a keyboard phone service that helps people with hearing or speech difficulties communicate on the phone.

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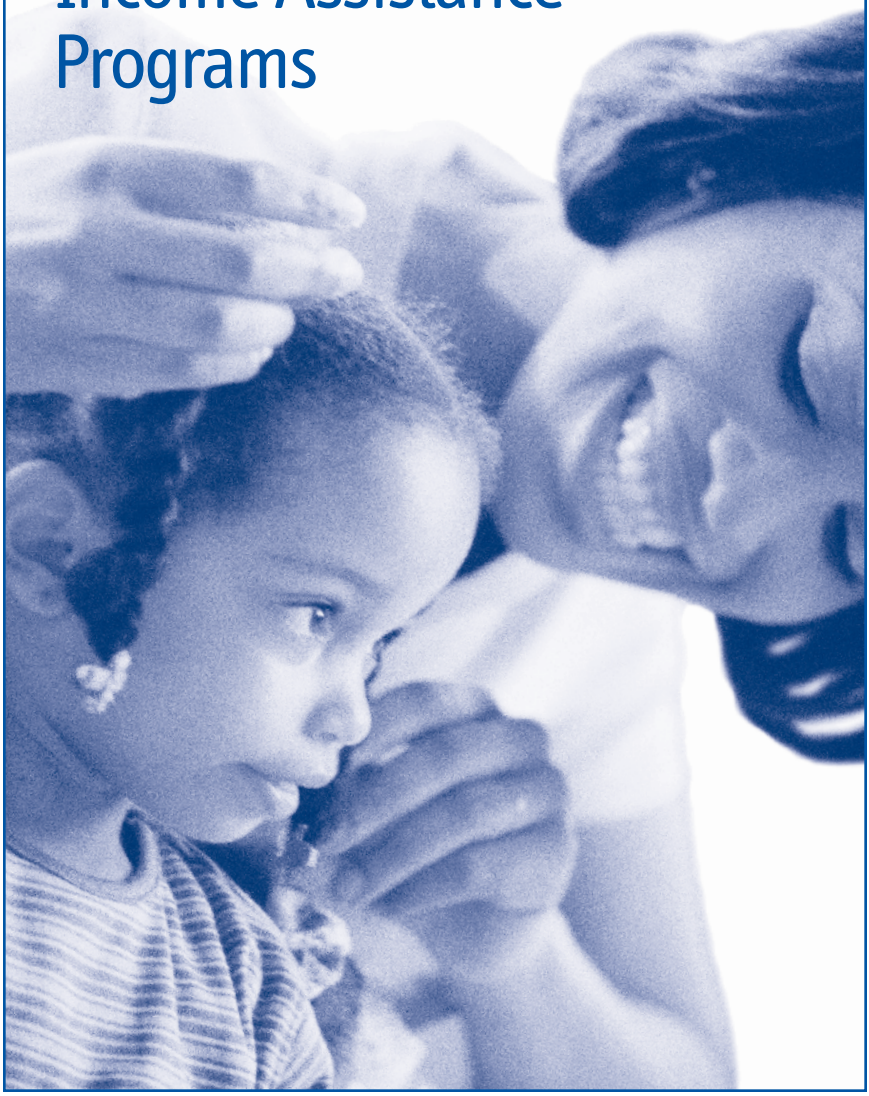
SECTION I

Health Insurance and Income Assistance Programs



Child Health Plus

Program Goal

To provide comprehensive health care services to uninsured children not eligible for Medicaid.

Eligibility

- Children, under age 19, who are New York State residents.
- Must not be eligible for Medicaid.
- Must have no other health insurance.
- Public employees who have access to family coverage through a state health benefits plan are not eligible.
- The following documents are required to enroll: proof of age; citizenship/identity; NYS residency; household income. In some cases, proof of immigration status is required.

Description

Child Health Plus provides children under 19 with free or affordable health coverage depending on their household income. Coverage is available statewide through 18 Child Health Plus health plans. Children enroll in one of the approved plans in the county where they live. Some of the services Child Health Plus covers are:

- Well-child care.
- Immunizations.
- Treatment for illness or injury.
- Inpatient hospital medical or surgical care.
- Short-term physical therapy; occupational therapy.
- Radiation therapy.
- Therapeutic outpatient services (chemotherapy, hemodialysis).
- Inpatient and outpatient treatment for alcoholism and substance abuse, and mental health.
- Prescription and non-prescription drugs if ordered by a physician.
- Emergency care.
- Emergency ground transportation.

- Emergency, preventative and routine dental care. Limited orthodontic services are available for children with a severe medical condition such as cleft lip or cleft palate.
- Preventive and routine vision care (including eyeglasses).
- Speech and hearing services (with limits).
- Durable medical equipment.
- Hospice services.

There is no monthly premium for families whose income is less than 1.6 times the poverty level. In 2013, that's about $600 a week for a three-person family, about $724 a week for a family of four. Families with higher incomes pay monthly premiums ranging from $9 to $60 a month per child, depending on their income and family size. For larger families, the monthly fee is capped at three children. If the family's income is more than 4 times the poverty level, they pay the full monthly premium charged by the health plan. There are no co-payments for services under Child Health Plus, so you don't pay anything when your child receives care through these plans.

Help with Signing Up

If you would like someone to assist you in applying for Child Health Plus, there are enrollers in your community who can help. These enrollers will help you complete the application, collect the necessary documents, and select a health plan. In many cases, assistance is available during evenings and weekends.

For More Information

For the nearest location where application assistance is available, or for more information, please call the NYS Health Department's CHPlus hotline **1-800-698-4543**. If you have challenges with hearing or speech, call the TTY number, **1-877-898-5849**.

Information is also available at **www.health.ny.gov/nysdoh/chplus/.**

Healthy New York

(Overseen by the New York State Department of Financial Services)

Program Goal

To provide reduced-cost, comprehensive health insurance to small employers, uninsured working individuals, and sole proprietors. (A sole proprietor is a person who owns a business in which he or she is the only employee).

Eligibility

Small employers must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The business must be located in New York State.
- The business must have 50 or fewer eligible employees.
- At least 30% of employees must make $40,000/year* or less.
- The business must not have provided comprehensive insurance within the last 12 months.
- The business must contribute at least 50% of the employees' Healthy NY premiums.
- At least 50% of the employees offered Healthy NY must accept coverage or have coverage through another source (e.g. a spouse, a public health program).
- The business must offer Healthy NY to all employees who work 20 or more hours per week and earn $40,000* per year or less.

Eligibility for individuals and sole proprietors:

- The individual must be a resident of New York State.
- The individual or the individual's spouse must have worked at some point within the last 12 months.
- The individual's employer must not arrange for and contribute to the cost of comprehensive insurance.
- The individual must not be eligible for Medicare.
- The individual must meet income guidelines,* which are 250% of the Federal Poverty Level (sole proprietors may deduct business expenses to calculate income), and

**Income amounts change annually. For current income guidelines, visit www.HealthyNY.com.*

- The individual must have been uninsured for the past 12 months or have lost coverage due to a specific event. (A listing of all specific events is on the Healthy NY website at **www.HealthyNY.com**).

Description

Healthy NY is a program designed to make reduced-cost, comprehensive health insurance available to working uninsured individuals, sole proprietors, and small employers that do not provide health insurance to their employees.

All Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) in New York State must offer Healthy NY. Rates vary by HMO and county, but the benefit package is the same regardless of the HMO selected.

Healthy NY also offers a high deductible health plan (HDHP) option. The 2013 deductible is $1,250 for individual coverage or $2,500 for family coverage. Members may access preventive care for a co-payment prior to meeting the deductible. Enrollees may open a health savings account to pay for qualified medical expenses, which provides tax benefits.

Benefits are comprehensive and include inpatient and outpatient hospital services; primary and specialist office visits; diagnostic, radiology, and laboratory services; pre-natal care; well-child care; and emergency services. Healthy NY has an optional prescription drug benefit. Healthy NY does not cover certain benefits including mental health services, vision, dental, and ambulance. Benefits are on a network basis.

For More Information

Please visit **www.HealthyNY.com** for a full description of eligibility requirements, benefits, co-payments, and other important information. You may also call the Healthy NY hotline at **1-866-HEALTHY NY (1-866-432-5849)** for more information.

Medicaid

Program Goal

To increase access to health care coverage for low income individuals, families and children.

Eligibility

Medicaid is a program for low-income persons whose income and/or resources are below certain levels. Eligible populations include children, pregnant women, single individuals, families and individuals certified blind or certified disabled. In addition, persons with medical bills may be eligible for Medicaid even if their income and resources are above the allowable Medicaid income levels. Medicaid income and resource levels generally change on January 1 of each year. Only certified blind individuals, certified disabled individuals, and individuals over 65 have a resource test. Children may be eligible for Child Health Plus if they are not eligible for Medicaid.

Description

Medicaid offers a full range of health services for eligible persons including:

- All regular medical checkups and needed follow-up care.
- Immunizations.
- Doctor and clinic visits.
- Medicine.
- Medical supplies.
- Medical equipment and appliances (wheelchairs, etc.).
- Lab tests and x-rays.
- Eye care and eye glasses.
- Emergency care.
- Dental care.
- Nursing home care.
- Emergency ambulance transportation to a hospital.
- Hospital stays.

For some pregnant women, services may be limited to perinatal care if their incomes are too high to qualify for full Medicaid coverage.

For children birth to 21 years old, Medicaid offers the Child/Teen Health Program (C/THP), which provides the services listed above for all Medicaid recipients. C/THP places an emphasis on preventive care and treatment. For example, Medicaid requires that all children be screened with a blood lead test at one and two years of age. C/THP is available from fee-for-service healthcare providers. Also, all managed care plans must offer C/THP to Medicaid recipients under 21 years of age who are enrolled in their plan.

Child Health Plus provides services to eligible children through managed care plans.

For Information

Call the New York State Health Department's Growing Up Healthy Hotline at **1-800-522-5006**, or contact your local county Department of Social Services. In New York City, call the Information Hotline at **311** or **(718) 557-1399**.

For more information about Medicaid, visit the Medicaid website: **www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid.**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Program Goal

To assist low-income children who are disabled or blind.

Eligibility

Children under the age of 18 (or individuals, age 18-22, who regularly attend school, college or training that is designed to prepare them for paying jobs) who meet the federal medical and financial criteria. In New York State, all Supplemental Security Income (SSI) recipients are eligible to receive Medicaid.

Description

The SSI Program is administered by the federal Social Security Administration (SSA). A child under 18 may be found disabled if he or she has a physical or mental impairment or combination of impairments that causes marked and severe functional limitations, and that can be expected to last for a continuous period of at least 12 months or can be expected to result in death. Individuals, 18-22 years old, are evaluated as adults, i.e., whether they have a physical or mental impairment(s) or combinations of impairments which prevent them from working for at least 12 months or are likely to result in death.

The SSA considers parental income and resources in determining financial eligibility for individuals under age 18, who live at home. Some types of income and resources are not applied.

For More Information

Call or visit your local Social Security field office; or call **1-800-772-1213**.

You can also visit the SSA website at: **www.ssa.gov/pgm/ssi.htm.**

Waiver Programs (Medicaid)

Bridges to Health Home and Community-Based Medicaid Waiver Program for Children in Foster Care (B2H)

Program Goal

To provide certain services to children in foster care who have significant mental health, developmental disabilities, or health care needs to help them to live in a home or community-based setting.

Eligibility

Children must be:

- Under the age of 21 years.
- In the care and custody of a Local Social Services District (LDSS) or the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS).
- Be Medicaid eligible.
- Have significant mental health, developmental disabilities, or health care needs, and
- Require a medical institutional level of care.

Children discharged from foster care may remain in the program if they are otherwise Medicaid eligible based on the child's own income and resources and continue to meet all other eligibility requirements.

Description

The B2H Waiver allows Medicaid to pay for some services not normally provided through Medicaid. The B2H program will provide the following services:

- Accessibility modifications.
- Adaptive and assistive equipment.
- Crisis respite.
- Crisis avoidance, management and training.
- Immediate crisis response services.
- Day habilitation (help with activities of daily living, such as dressing, feeding, bathing).

- Family caregiver supports and services.
- Health care integration (coordination and care management).
- Intensive in-home supports.
- Planned respite.
- Prevocational services (services that teach the person work habits that will help him/her to get and keep a job).
- Skill building.
- Special needs community advocacy and support.
- Supported employment (a job coach assists the individual's adjustment to the new work location and works closely with the supervisor to understand the person's needs, etc.).

For More Information

Program information is available at **www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/b2h**. You can also call the Office of Children and Family Services at **(518) 408-4064**, or the Department of Health at **(518) 486-6562**.

Care at Home Medicaid Waiver for Developmentally Disabled Children (Office for People with Developmental Disabilities [OPWDD])

Program Goal

To provide medical assistance to families with children living at home who have severe disabilities or medical conditions.

Eligibility

- Must be under 18 years of age
- Have a developmental disability
- Demonstrate complex health care needs
- Be eligible for the level of care provided by an intermediate care facility (ICF/DD, i.e. a certified nursing home)
- Does not require a hospital inpatient stay
- Must not be eligible for Medicaid when parents' income/resources are counted, and
- Must be eligible for Medicaid when parents' income and resources are *not* counted.

Description

The Care at Home Waiver program allows Medicaid to pay for some services not provided through "regular" Medicaid, such as case management, respite, home adaptations and vehicle modification. These services can make home care an option for children and their families. Although this Medicaid funding applies only to the child, it can be used to help cover the costs of caring for the child at home.

For More Information

Contact the Care At Home Coordinator at the nearest Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO). The number can be found in the **blue pages** in the phone book under: New York State Government, Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities.

You can also go to the OPWDD website at **www.opwdd.ny.gov** to find your local DDSO. Click on "Services." Then click on "Map and Resource Directory" at the bottom of the page. Then click on the link, "Developmental Disabilities Services Offices (DDSO)."

Care at Home (CAH I/II) Program for Physically Disabled Children

Program Goal

To enable physically disabled children to remain in the home setting.

Eligibility

- Must be under 18 years of age
- Require the level of care provided by a skilled nursing facility or hospital
- Must be able to be cared for at home safely
- Must be eligible for Medicaid based on his/her parents' income and, if applicable, resources **OR**

  Must be ineligible for Medicaid due to the parents' excess income and/or resources, but be eligible for Medicaid when parents' income and/or resources are not counted.

In addition: In order to be eligible for Care at Home (CAH), the child must not be married.

Description

The Medicaid-waiver CAHI/II program provides community-based services to physically disabled children who require hospital or skilled nursing home level of care, and allows the child to be at home instead of in an institutional setting. Medicaid state plan services and waiver services, including case management, respite, home adaptations, vehicle modification and palliative care are available to assist families in caring for their disabled child at home. Considered as a group, the cost of care of children participating in CAH I/II can not exceed that if cared for in a skilled nursing facility or hospital.

For More Information

Every county Department of Social Services has a CAH coordinator who can provide information on this program. To obtain the phone number of your county's Department of Social Services, call the Growing Up Healthy Hotline at **1-800-522-5006**, in New York City, call **(929) 221-2308**. You may also access this information online, at New York State Department of Health website at **www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm** or through NY Connects at **www.nyconnects.ny.gov**.

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Children and Adolescents with Serious Emotional Disturbances

Program Goal

To provide services and support to children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances and their families to enable them to remain at home and in the community.

Eligibility

- Must be between 5 and 17 years of age; if enrolled prior to 18th birthday may remain in the Waiver up to the age of 21
- Have serious emotional disturbances
- Demonstrate complex health and mental health needs
- Require or be at imminent risk of needing psychiatric inpatient care
- Service and support needs cannot be met by one agency/system
- Have a consistent and viable living arrangement with family that is able and willing to participate in the waiver
- Appear to be capable of being cared for in the community with access to waiver services
- Be eligible for Medicaid; and
- Parental income and resources are not considered when determining the child's eligibility for Medicaid

Description

The HCBS Waiver allows Medicaid to pay for some services not normally provided through Medicaid, including: care coordination; respite; family support services; intensive in-home services; crisis response and skill building services.

Although the Medicaid funding only applies to the child, it can be used to defray the costs of caring for the child at home. The waiver is operational in the five boroughs of NYC and all counties but Oneida, with capacity to serve 1,623 children.

For More Information

For more information about the HCBS Waiver for children with serious emotional disturbances, go to **www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/guidance/hcbs/.**

Home and Community-Based Services Medicaid Waiver for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (HCBS/TBI)

Program Goal

To provide support and services to assist an individual with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) to live as independently as possible in the community of their choice.

Eligibility

- Must have a diagnosis of TBI or a related diagnosis similar to TBI that is not a progressive degenerative disease
- Be assessed to need a nursing home level of care as a result of the TBI
- Be enrolled in the Medicaid Program
- Be between the ages of 18 and 64
- Choose to live in the community rather than a nursing facility
- Have or find a living arrangement in which to receive services
- Complete an Initial Service Plan, Plan of Protective Oversight (PPO) and Application Packet in cooperation with a Service Coordinator and be approved by the Regional Resource Development Specialist (RRDS)
- Be able to be served with the funds and services available under the HCBS/TBI waiver and New York Medicaid State Plan

Description

The HCBS/TBI waiver is accessed through a network of Regional Resource Development Centers (RRDC) which serve specific counties throughout the state. The Waiver provides a variety of services to support an individual in the community. Each waiver participant selects an approved Service Coordinator to assist them in the development of a Service Plan and to oversee the provision of all services selected by the participant.

HCBS/TBI waiver services include: service coordination, independent living skills training and development (ILST), structured day program services, substance abuse program services, positive behavioral interventions and support services (PBIS), community integration counseling (CIC), home and community support services (HCSS), environmental modifications (emods), respite services, assistive technology (AT), waiver transportation, and community transitional services (CTS).

For More Information

Call the NYS Department of Health HCBS/TBI at **(518) 474-5271** to find the Regional Resource Development Center nearest you or go to the DOH website: **www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/longterm/tbi.htm.**

Home and Community-Based Services Waiver/Long-Term Home Health Care Program (HCBS/LTHHCP)

Program Goal

To prevent premature and/or unwanted institutionalization by providing a coordinated plan of care and services to individuals of any age who would otherwise require nursing facility care.

Eligibility

- Must be medically eligible for nursing home level of care
- Verify a preference to remain at home
- Have an assessment to confirm that needs can be safely met at home
- Have physician verification they are able to remain at home
- Require coordinated services and case management
- Must have the need for and be in receipt of at least one waiver service every 30 days
- Cost of home care services must fall within budget cap of the assessed level of care for which the person is approved; this budget cap is based on monthly local nursing home rate
- Be Medicaid eligible

Description

The LTHHCP Waiver provides a coordinated plan of care and services to individuals who would otherwise be medically eligible for placement in a hospital or nursing facility for an extended period of time if such program were unavailable. All individuals receive case management and may receive other services based on assessment and each individual's service needs. Services offered may include nursing, therapies, and personal care services. In addition, the waiver allows Medicaid to pay for some services not provided through "regular" Medicaid such as respiratory therapy, medical social services, nutritional counseling, home maintenance and modifications, vehicular modifications, moving assistance, respite care, home delivered meals, personal emergency response system, assistive technology, community transitional services, and home and community support services.

For More Information

LTHHCP is administered by local social service districts and services are provided by a certified Long Term Home Health Care Program Provider. Call your local Department of Social Services (DSS) for more information. To obtain the phone number of your local DSS, go to the New York State Department of Health website at **www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/ldss.htm.**

Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver for Persons, Including Children, with Mental Retardation and/or Developmental Disabilities

Program Goal

To provide services and supports for adults and children of all ages and their families to enable them to remain at home or in community residential settings.

Eligibility

- Must have mental retardation and/or a developmental disability
- Must meet level of care eligibility criteria for an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded
- Must be eligible for Medicaid
- Must live at home, or in an Office of People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) sponsored Individualized Residential Alternative (IRA), Community Residence, or Family Care home
- Parental income and resources are not considered when determining the child's eligibility for Medicaid.

Description

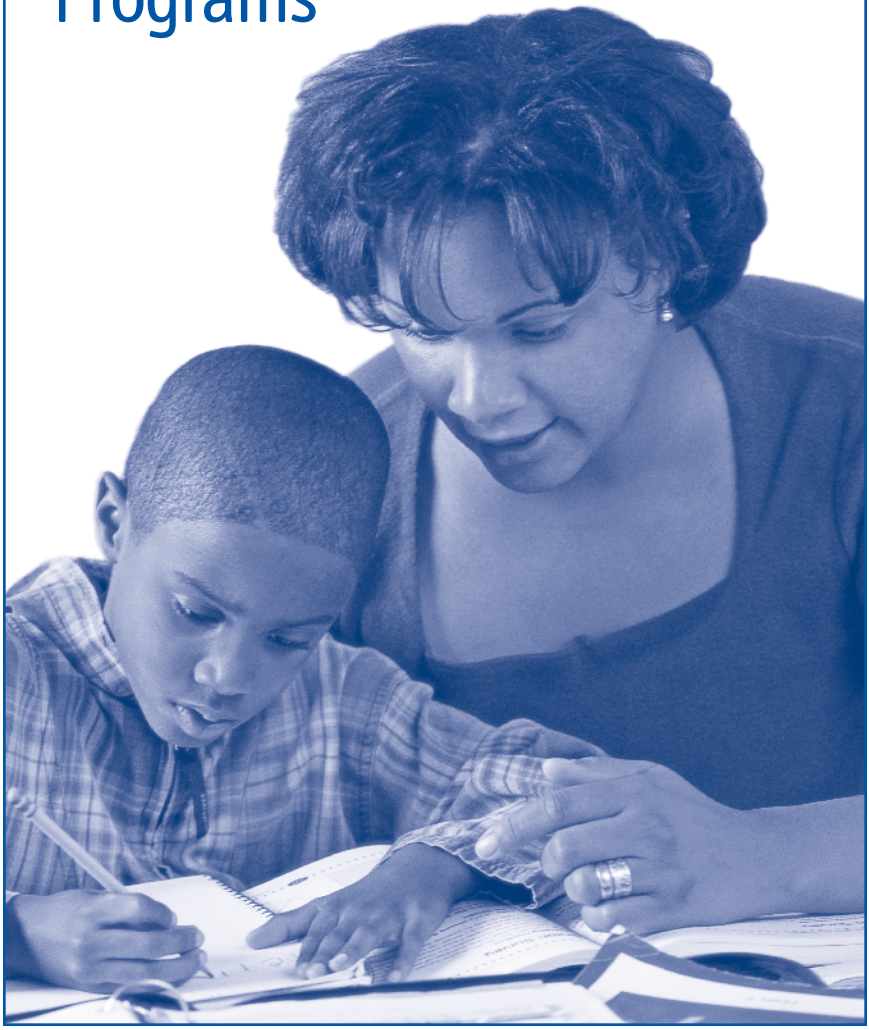
The HCBS Waiver allows Medicaid to pay for some services not normally provided through Medicaid. These services include: respite; residential and day habilitation; community habilitation, plan of care support services; consolidated supports and services; environmental modifications; adaptive devices; and family education and training. Other waiver services include prevocational services to teach the person appropriate work habits that will enable him/her to obtain and keep employment and supported employment services of a job coach to assist the individual to adjust to the new work location. The job coach works closely with the person's supervisor to understand his/her needs. The waiver is available in all of the State's counties and boroughs of New York City.

For More Information

The HCBS Waiver is administered through the local OPWDD Developmental Disability Services Offices (DDSO). Contact the OPWDD Office of Waiver Management at **(518) 474-5647** to obtain the name of the local DDSO or go to the OPWDD website at **www.opwdd.ny.gov**, click on "Services." Then click on "Map and Resource Directory" at the bottom of the page. Then click on the link, "Developmental Disabilities Services Offices (DDSO)."

SECTION II

Education, Health, and Support Services Programs



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

Program Goal

To improve the system of care for children with special health care needs (CSHCN) and their families.

Eligibility

CSHCN are children birth to 21 years of age 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.

Any child with a special health care need residing in a county that has a CSHCN Program is eligible for information and referral services.

Description

The CSHCN Program is a 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 many county health departments. 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 More Information

To inquire about what programs (CSHCN/PHCP) may be available in your county, call the New York State Department of Health's Growing Up Healthy Hotline at **1-800-522-5006** or call your local health department in the government **blue pages** of the phone book.

Local program contact and other information is also available at **www.health.ny.gov/community/special_needs.**

In New York City, contact the Division of Health Care Access and Improvement at **(212) 676-2950**.

Early Intervention Program

Program Goal

To enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays, and to assist families in meeting their children's special needs.

Eligibility

- Children under 3 years of age who live in New York State, and
- Have a confirmed disability or established developmental delay.

A confirmed disability means that the child has been diagnosed with a physical or mental condition (such as Down syndrome, autism, cerebral palsy, vision or hearing impairment) that has a high chance of resulting in a delay.

"Developmental delay" means that the child is behind in at least one area of development including physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive development.

A child can be referred to the Early Intervention Program by various health professionals or by his/her parent(s). All children referred with a suspected disability are entitled to receive a multidisciplinary evaluation to determine their eligibility for early intervention services. Children with a diagnosed condition will still need an evaluation to help plan early intervention services.

Description

Once eligibility is determined, a meeting takes place to develop an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The IFSP is a written document that describes the early intervention services that will be provided to the child and family. IFSP meeting participants include the child's parents, the service coordinator, the county early intervention official, a representative of the team that evaluated the child, and anyone else requested by the parents.

Early Intervention services available to eligible children and their families include:

- Service coordination.
- Family training, family counseling.
- Family/parent support groups.
- Speech pathology and audiology.
- Vision services.
- Physical therapy.
- Occupational therapy.
- Nutrition services.
- Nursing services.
- Psychological services.
- Social work services.
- Special instruction.
- Transportation.
- Assistive technology devices and services.

These services are determined on an individual basis, and there are no out-of-pocket costs to families. Third party payment, including private insurance and Medicaid, is used when available.

For More Information

Call the New York State Health Department's Growing Up Healthy Hotline at **1-800-522-5006** (in New York City call **311**); or contact your county health department in the government **blue pages** of the phone book.

You can also visit the Early Intervention Program's website at: **www.health.ny.gov/ community/infants_children/early_intervention/index.htm.**

Family Support Services (FSS)

Program Goal

To help families care for their loved one with a developmental disability at home for as long as desired.

Eligibility

Families caring at home for family members with developmental disabilities in accordance with the Family Support Services (FSS) eligibility criteria.

Description

The Office for People with Developmental Disabilities' Family Support Services Program funds services through not-for-profit agencies in the community and through the regional Developmental Disabilities Services Offices (DDSO). Services may include: respite (day, evening, overnight); recreation (day, evening, summer/day camp); family reimbursement/cash subsidy; case management/service coordination; counseling; behavior management; crisis intervention; financial and life planning assistance; information/referral/outreach; training; transportation; special adaptive equipment and environmental modification.

For More Information

To request family support services, families may contact the regional DDSO in their area. For more information, call **1-866-946-9733** for the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and Family Support and Aging Services, 44 Holland Ave., Albany, New York 12229. Information is also available at: the OPWDD website: **www.opwdd.ny.gov/opwdd_services_supports/supports_for_independent_and_family_living/family_support_services**

Genetic Services Program

Program Goal

To ensure that individuals with genetic disorders, whether affected, at-risk for transmitting, or simply concerned, have access to comprehensive genetics services which include diagnostic, counseling and preventive services.

Eligibility

Any person living in New York State.

Description

New York State provides grant awards to genetic centers in all areas of the state. Funded centers provide a full range of genetic services. These services include diagnosis, laboratory testing, and genetic counseling and referral to specialty treatment centers as needed by the patient and family for many types of conditions, such as breast cancer, cystic fibrosis and sickle cell disease. Health insurance is billed if the patient has it, but all services are available whether or not the patient is able to pay for them.

For More Information

Call the New York State Department of Health's Genetic Service Program at **(518) 474-7148** for information on the genetic center(s) nearest to you. Information is also available at: **www.wadsworth.org/newborn.**

Special Education Services

Program Goal

To ensure that a free appropriate public education and full educational opportunity in the least restrictive environment are provided to students with disabilities by:

- Making school programs more effective and improving outcomes for students.
- Ensuring that federal and state regulations are followed.
- Ensuring the protections guaranteed to students with disabilities and their parents are enforced.

Eligibility

Children ages 3-21 with disabilities who live in New York State are eligible. Students thought to have a disability are referred to a multidisciplinary team (e.g., teachers, psychologists, and therapists) called the Committee on Preschool Special Education or the Committee on Special Education. The Committee arranges for an evaluation of the student's abilities and needs. Based on evaluation results, the committee decides if the student is eligible to receive special education services and programs.

Description

"Special education" means specially designed individualized or group instruction or special services or programs to meet the unique needs of students with disabilities. Special education services and programs are provided at no cost to the parent.

For high school students, the Office of Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation (ACCES-VR) provides counselors who work with students within two years of expected

graduation to help with the transition planning process. Counselors can help an eligible person with a disability plan for a career, obtain job coaching and training, and work with employers and training centers to ensure that reasonable accommodations are provided.

The Office of Special Education (OSE) provides leadership and support to ensure that federal and State special education requirements are consistently implemented statewide through:

- Training, technical assistance and quality assurance activities to address the needs of students with disabilities, their families, education and other appropriate personnel who provide educational programs and services to students with disabilities.
- Policy development and technical assistance to special education programs provided to students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21, in public and nonpublic schools, including school districts, Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), State-operated and State-supported schools, approved private schools, charter schools, and Special Act School Districts.
- Special education technical assistance centers and resources for parents and schools. Additional information on special education technical assistance can be found at **www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/techassist/**.

Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers

The OSE has established a coordinated statewide network of 10 Regional Special Education Technical Assistance Support Centers (RSE-TASC). The RSE-TASC are located in those school districts needing assistance to improve results for students with disabilities and to meet the State's targets for improvement. Each RSE-TASC includes both regional technical assistance specialists (such as behavior specialists, bilingual special education specialists, regional trainers, transition specialists and nondistrict technical assistance providers), as well as special education school improvement specialists who are located within each BOCES and in the Buffalo, New York City, Syracuse, Rochester and Yonkers school districts.

Special Education Parent Centers

Thirteen Special Education Parent Centers provide parents of children with disabilities with information, resources and strategies to promote their meaningful involvement in their children's education programs, including information regarding the special education process (referrals, individual evaluations, individualized education program development and transition planning); assist in understanding their children's

disabilities; promote early resolution of disputes between parents and school districts; promote the use of resolution sessions and special education mediation; assist in understanding procedural due process rights, including the right to impartial hearings and appeals, and the State complaint process; and enhance parents' skills and levels of confidence to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with other schools and stakeholders to advocate and actively participate in their children's education program.

Early Childhood Direction Centers

Early Childhood Direction Centers (ECDCs) assist parents in the referral of their children for special education and provide training and parent education on the special education process; provide information and support for children transitioning from Early Intervention services to preschool special education; and provide important assistance to ensure the timely evaluation and provision of services to preschool children with disabilities.

Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center

The Response to Intervention Technical Assistance Center (RtI-TAC) provides technical assistance to school districts to implement model Response to Intervention (RtI) programs that identify general education students struggling in academic and behavioral areas early and provides them with systematically applied strategies and targeted instruction at varying levels of intervention.

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities

The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) works with school districts to assist them in building capacity to develop effective educational programs for students with autism spectrum disorders (ASD). The Center also provides regional seminars to school professionals and parents on essential components of effective programs for students with ASD.

For More Information

Contact OSE for general policy issues at **(518) 473-2878**, or the local Special Education Quality Assurance Regional Offices at the following locations:

Eastern Regional Office
Albany, NY
(518) 486-6366

Western Regional Office
Batavia, NY
(585) 344-2002

Central Regional Office
Syracuse, NY
(315) 428-4556

Hudson Valley Regional Office
Albany, NY
(518) 473-1185

Long Island Regional Office
Hauppauge, NY
(631) 952-3352

New York City Regional Office
Brooklyn, NY
(718) 722-4544

Nondistrict Unit Office
Albany, NY
(518) 473-1185

The Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (TRAID) Program

Program Goal

To help persons with disabilities to obtain needed assistive technology services and devices.

Eligibility

Services are available to individuals of all ages with disabilities, their family members, service providers, employers, educators, and others who are interested in disability issues or assistive technology.

Description

The TRAID Program supports a system that responds to the individual needs of people with disabilities who need assistive technology.

The TRAID Program helps people learn about, obtain, and be able to use assistive technology services and devices which meet their needs. TRAID is federally funded and administered by the NYS Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (CQCAPD).

New York State residents can call the agency's toll-free telephone number (see next page) for information on many disability-related subjects, including assistive technology. The professionals who staff the information and referral line have access to:

- TRAID-IN Equipment Exchange Service: a matching service for people wanting to list technology equipment to buy, sell or donate to others. This service is available through the CQCAPD website (see next page).
- TRAID staff are knowledgeable about the policies and procedures of available programs and funding sources for assistive technology.

The Program funds twelve Regional TRAID Centers that offer local assistive technology-related information and referral, product demonstrations, device loans and advocacy and awareness services. These centers also operate an assistive technology device lending service for infants and toddlers and their families funded by the New York State Health Department's Early Intervention Program. TRAID also receives funds from the NYSDOH Money Follow the Person (MFP) program to purchase devices for loan to people who want to leave institutions and live independently in their communities.

For More Information

Call or contact **www.cqc.ny.gov** to locate the nearest Regional TRAID Center. Materials are offered in Spanish, Braille, and large print and on diskette as well as audio cassette.

Address: NYS CQCAPD
TRAID Program
401 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305

Phone: (800) 624-4143 (Voice/TTY/Spanish)
(518) 388-2877(Voice/TTY)
(518) 388-2890 (FAX)

Notes

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