



Mass. Department of Public Health
Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs

Understanding Services for Children & Youth with Special Needs

Help with your child and family's immediate needs

1-800-882-1435

Insurance, Financial Assistance, Direct Care, Service Coordination, and Family Support::

US Social Security Administration

(800) 772-1213 (800) 325-0778 (TTY) www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html

- **Social Security benefits for children with disabilities**
Financial assistance (monthly payments) and MassHealth for disabled children with limited financial resources

Mass. Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

(617) 740-1600 www.mass.gov/mcdhh

Wide range of services including case management, interpreters, technology assistance, information, advocacy, training and support
(800) 249-9949 www.mass.gov/mcdhh

For emergencies support only. Services for sign language interpreters, medical and mental health support is available M-F 9-5, Legal services are offered 24/7

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind

(800) 332-2772 www.state.ma.us/mcb

Specialized social and rehabilitative services, medical and financial assistance, and translation services in all languages

Office of Medicaid

- **MassHealth** www.mass.gov/masshealth
 - Enrollment center: (800) 408-1253 or (800) 231-5698 (TTY)
 - Customer service: (800) 841-2900, or (800) 497-4648 (TTY)
 - General line (888) 665-9993

MassHealth Standard

Medical insurance available to children regardless of disability based on family income. In addition to SSI, MassHealth has 2 other programs for children with disabilities:

- o **CommonHealth**
A state program to purchase MassHealth for medically-eligible children for a premium based on gross income and family size (regardless of finances).
- o **Kaileigh Mulligan (Home Care for Disabled Children)**
(800) 408-1253 (800) 231-5698 (TTY)
Provides funding for in-home care of children who are dependent on invasive medical technology and have 2 separate nursing needs daily. Medically eligible children obtain MassHealth Standard regardless of parent's income or assets.
- o **MassHealth Standard CommonHealth Premium Assistance Program (MSCPA)**
(800) 862-4840
Provides financial assistance to reimburse most employer based health insurance premiums. This program is administered separately from MassHealth CommonHealth and requires an additional application.
- o **Community Case Management**
(800) 863-6068
Single point of entry for coordinated long-term care services for medically fragile children on MassHealth Standard eligible for continuous nursing services.. Operated for the Office of Medicaid by the UMass Medical School
- o **Enhanced Coordination of Benefits**
(617) 866-8200
Helps MassHealth members and their families with care coordination by identifying all benefits from MassHealth and private insurances and helping with application process for MassHealth, MSCPA, and COBRA.
- o **Children's Medical Security Plan**
(800) 909-2677 or (888) 665-9993
Medical insurance available to otherwise uninsured children who do not qualify for Mass Health. Sliding scale fee.

For Statewide Childcare Services

<http://www.eec.state.ma.us/cpcSearchResult.aspx>

Child Care Resources

www.sevenhills.org/cafs_ccr_overview.html

Fitchburg Area (978) 343-7395; (800) 660-6269

Provides voucher assistance for family and center based child care. Assistance for families with children with or without special needs to obtain appropriate childcare placements.

Child Care Connection (508) 757-1503; (800) 278-1503

www.ccfscm.org Worcester Area

Assistance for Families with or without special needs to obtain appropriate childcare placements.

Child Care Resources

www.sevenhills.org/cafs_ccr_overview.html

Worcester Area (508) 856-7930; (800) 952-9183

Provides voucher assistance for family and center based child care.

Massachusetts Dept. of Developmental Services

(DDS) (formerly Dept. of Mental Retardation)

(413) 284-1500 or (800) 328-3123 www.mass.gov/dds

Central/West Regional DDS Office (Palmer)

Creating innovative and genuine opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities to participate fully and meaningfully in, and contribute to, their communities as valued members

Intake & Eligibility:

- **DDS General Family Support / Limited**
Service planning and coordination, referral to local Family Support Centers, information and referral to community resources, projects to build family leadership and community involvement. Subject to available funding.
- **DDS Enhanced Family Supports**
Intensive Flexible Family Support and Medically Fragile Family Partnership Programs provide direct assistance in critical situations where children are at risk for out of home placement due to intensive and complex needs or severe stress

DDS Citizen Advisory Boards Central/West Regional DDS Office (Palmer) (413) 284-1500 or (800) 328-3123 www.mass.gov/dds (search: Citizen Advisory Boards) For more information you may also contact the Office of Citizen Leadership: call (617) 624-7755 or email citizenleadership@state.ma.us Boards meet monthly and review regional services, conduct community educational projects, educate legislators, hold forums and hearings and advise state officials. Any citizen committed to supporting people with intellectual challenges may participate.

Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH)

www.mass.gov/dph

- **Community Support Line**
(800) 882-1435 (617) 624-5992 (TTY)
Toll-free information on resources, public benefits, eligibility and referrals for families of children with special health care needs
- **Early Intervention (EI)**
Central directory provided for DPH by MassFamily TIES (800) 905-8437 www.massfamilyties.org
Statewide, integrated, developmental service available to families of children between birth and three years of age for whom there are developmental concerns. EI provides family-centered services and service coordination that facilitate the developmental progress of eligible children. The DPH may collect an annual fee based on family size and income.

- **Central Region Consultation Program (CRCP)**
Jodi Russell, Coordinator 508-473-3422 x322 Fax: 508-473-0994
jrussell@criterionchild.com
Consultation for families and children birth to five years old with complex care needs. Services include parent and provider trainings, equipment loan program and resources and referral information.
- **Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project**
(877) 353-4757 www.eiplp.org
Supports EI families, works to promote advocacy and leadership skills, supports the EI system to become increasingly family-centered
- **Care Coordination Services**
(800) 882-1435 (617) 624-5992 (TTY)
Free assistance obtaining and coordinating public and private services for children with complex special health care needs
- **Children's Medical Security Plan**
(800) 909-2677 or (888) 665-9993
Medical insurance available to otherwise uninsured children who do not qualify for Mass Health. Sliding scale fee.
- **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund**
(800) 882-1435 (617) 624-5992 (TTY) www.mass.gov/cicrf
Financial assistance for families who have extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses relating to their child's special health care needs
- **MASSTART (Massachusetts Technology Assistance Resource Team)**
(508) 856-4155 Dotty Page, FNP, MSN
Free consultation and planning assistance to families and schools for children and adolescents with special health needs, especially those assisted by medical technology
- **Pediatric Palliative Care Network (PPCN)**
(800) 882-1435 www.pediatric.palliative.care@state.ma.us
Provides support and services to families caring for children with life-limiting illness.

Get information, support, training, referrals, and more

Educate yourself, connect with other parents. . . and when you're ready, get involved and advocate for change.

The Federation for Children with Special Needs

(800) 331-0688 www.fcsn.org

Provides information, support and assistance to parents of children with disabilities, their professional partners and communities. Phone consultations, website, newsletter, trainings

- **Family TIES of Massachusetts**
(800) 905-TIES (8437) www.massfamilyties.org
Central Region Parent Coordinator: Barbara Donati 508-792-7880 Barbara.donati@state.ma.us
Statewide information and support project for families of children with special needs and chronic illness. Central directory for Early Intervention information and referrals
Barbara Donati, Parent Coordinator 508-792-7880
Barbara.donati@state.ma.us
Provides information, referrals and support for families with children with special needs 0-22.
Coordinates statewide parent-to-parent network
 - **Parent-to-Parent Program**
1-800-905 TIES (8437) www.massfamilyties.org/p2p/p2p
Program to bring together parents facing similar challenges in raising their children with special needs.

Mass Family Voices

(800) 331-0688 ext. 210 www.massfamilyvoices.org

Parent run network of families, friends and professional partners brought together by the common concern for children and youth with special health care needs Information center, online listserv, topical conference calls, workshops and conferences, get technical assistance related to Mass Health, health care financing and services, improving access to care, and more

- **Mass Family Voices Listserv**
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/massfamilyvoices>
An active online forum of family members and friends speaking out and sharing information to support children with special health care needs. Post questions and review daily message and responses from others with common experiences.

PAL - The Parent/Professional Advocacy League

The Massachusetts branch of The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

(617) 542-7860 Central (508) 767-9725 www.ppal.net

A network of parents and professionals promoting a strong voice for families of children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral and mental health needs. PAL advocates for supports, treatment and policies that enable families to live in their communities in an environment of stability and respect.

Autism Resource Center of Central Massachusetts (ARC)

Sue Loring, Director (508) 835-4278 www.autismresourcecentral.org

Provides information and referral, family support groups, resource library, software preview and equipment loan, newsletter.

Massachusetts Families organizing for change (MFOFC)

(800) 406-3632 Central (978) 297-2240 www.mfofc.org

Advocacy and leadership training in pursuit of high quality individualized community support for people with disabilities and their families

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

(617) 770-7676 ext.115 (617) 770-9499 (TTY) www.mass.gov/mddc

Information, support, trainings, referral and advocacy to provide opportunities for people with disabilities and their families to enhance independence, productivity and inclusion.

- **Consumer Empowerment Funds Program** : Program to reimburse up to \$500 in expenses for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or family members or relevant conferences, guardians to attend trainings and events

