



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs

Understanding Services & Benefits for Children & Youth with Special Health Care 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

1-(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

• Mass Health www.mass.gov/masshealth

- Enrollment center: (800) 841-2900 or (800) 231-5698 (TTY)

- Customer service: (800) 841-2900, including TTY

MassHealth Standard

Medical insurance available to children regardless of disability based on family income

In addition to \$\$\$ MassHealth has two 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 two separate nursing needs daily. Medically eligible children obtain MassHealth Standard regardless of parent's income or assets

Mass Health Standard CommonHealth Premium Assistance Program (MSCPA)

(800) 862-4840

MSCPA Program helps to pay toward the premium of the employer health insurance, not the CommonHealth premium. This program is administered separately from Mass Health Common Health and requires an additional application

Community Case Management

(800) 863-6068

Single point of entry for coordinated long-term care services for medically fragile children on Mass Health Standard. Operated for the Office of Medicaid by the UMass Medical School

Enhanced Coordination of Benefits

(617) 886-8200

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.

Mass. Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS)

formerly Dept. of Mental Retardation

508-866-5000, 68 N Main St., Carver, MA 02330 www.mass.gov/dmr

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

• DDS General Family Support / Core Services

Service planning and coordination, flexible funding stipends or payments for goods and services, paid respite, support workers for skill building and recreation, 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 Complex

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.*

• Family Support Centers *across the state provide a local*

presence and act as a hub for offering a wide range of general family support services and activities to families of children and adults who are eligible for DDS services across the state. There is at least one Family Support Center in each DDS Area, with some areas having more than one. These Centers are expected to do broad outreach and provide services to families from diverse cultural, ethnic and linguistic communities in the geographic area they are serving, which may involve creating partnerships with community organizations and other resources in order to provide culturally responsive services.

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 Mass. Family 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.

• Southeast Regional Consultation Program

Schwartz Center for Children

Sonia Amaral: 508-996-3391 ext 246

SAmaral@schwartzcenter.org

Consultation for families and children with complex care needs, free care coordination services, referrals, recreational activities, and respite funds.

• 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 special health care needs

• Children's Medical Security Plan

(800)-909-2677 or (800)-665-9993

Medical insurance available to otherwise uninsured children who do not qualify for Mass Health. Sliding scale fee applies

- **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)**
(857) 218-4333
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
Statewide information and parent-to-parent support project for families of children with special needs and chronic illness. Central directory for Early Intervention information and referrals
 - **Parent-to-Parent Program**
(413) 586-7525, ext. 586-3133 www.massfamilyties.org/p2p/p2p/php
 - *Program to bring together parents facing similar challenges in raising their children with special needs. Receive a phone call from a trained parent individually matched to you and your child's situation*



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 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

Massachusetts Families organizing for change (MFOFC)

(800) 406-3632 Statewide Coordinator (508) 999-4436 Southeast Coordinator www.mfofc.org

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

- **Family Leadership Series**
Workshop series to develop leadership and advocacy skills to initiate positive change at the family, community, state and federal levels.

ARCS

The ARC provides a wide array of residential, day, family support, autism, personal assistance and early intervention services.

Advocacy Resource Center

(ARC) of Greater New Bedford

Phone: (508) 996-8551 Email: arcgnbglor@aol.com

Arc of Northern Bristol County

Phone: (508) 226-1445 Website: www.arcnbc.org

Arc of Cape Cod

Phone: (508) 790-3667 Email: arcofcapecod@hotmail.com

Website: arcofcapecod.org

Arc of Greater Plymouth County

Phone: (508) 732-9292 Email: info@thearcofpg.com

Website: www.thearcofpg.com

Arc of Greater Fall River

Phone: (508) 679-0001 Email: arcofgrfr@yahoo.com

Arc of the South Shore

Phone: (781) 335-3023 Email: dcalhoun@arcsouthshore.org

Website: www.arcsouthshore.org

Brockton Area ARC

Phone: (508) 583-8030 Email: baarc@comcast.net

Website: www.brocktonarearc.org

Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council

(617) 770-7676 (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**
(617) 770-7676, ext. 115 (617) 770-9499 (TTY) or email: Harold.lieberman@state.ma.us
Program to reimburse up to \$500 in expenses for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or family members or guardians to attend relevant conferences, trainings and events