

# Understanding Services for Children with Special Healthcare Needs

## US Social Security Administration

[www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/apply-child.html)

(800) 772-1213 (800) 325-0778 (TTY)

### 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

[www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-deaf-and-hard-of-hearing) (617) 740-1600 TTY (800) 530-7570 Video Phone (800)882-1155

Wide range of services including case management, interpreters, technology assistance, information, advocacy, training and support 1-(800) 249-9949 **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

[www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-commission-for-the-blind) (800) 332-2772

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

## Office of Medicaid

MassHealth [www.mass.gov/topics/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/topics/masshealth)

(800) 408-1253 or (800) 231-5698 (TTY)

- **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, listed below, followed by 3 related services.
  - **CommonHealth**  
A state program to purchase MassHealth for medically eligible children for a premium based on gross income and family size (regardless of finances).
  - **Kaileigh Mulligan (Home Care for Disabled Children)**  
[KM.Tewksbury@mass.gov](mailto:KM.Tewksbury@mass.gov) (978) 863-9279  
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.
  - **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.
  - **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.
  - **Enhanced Coordination of Benefits**  
(833) 886-3262  
Helps MassHealth members identify and coordinate all benefits from MassHealth and private insurances.

## Massachusetts Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS)

[www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/department-of-developmental-services) (617) 727-5608 Video Phone (857) 366-4179

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

- **DDS General Family Support / Limited**  
Service planning and coordination, referral to local Family Support Centers, information and referral to community resources, assistive technology team, 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

## Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH)

[www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph)

- **Community Support Line**  
(800) 882-1435 (617) 624-5992 (TTY)  
If calling from out-of-state phone number: (617) 624-6060;  
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 [www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org) (800) 905-8437  
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.
- **Northeast Regional Consultation Program**  
Rachel Daniels [rdaniels@thepccd.org](mailto:rdaniels@thepccd.org) 978-475-3806 x 242  
Specialty service for children in EI with special health care needs offering resources, referrals, trainings, assistive technology, parent events, and family outings.
- **Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project**  
Kris Martone-Levine [www.eiplp.org](http://www.eiplp.org) (877) 353-4757  
Supports EI families, works to promote advocacy and leadership skills, supports the EI system to become increasingly family-centered
- **Care Coordination Services**  
Contact RCP or Community Support Line to determine eligibility. Free assistance obtaining and coordinating public and private services for children with complex special health care needs
- **Children's Medical Security Plan**  
[www.mass.gov/childrens-medical-security-plan](http://www.mass.gov/childrens-medical-security-plan) (800) 841-2900  
Medical insurance available to otherwise uninsured children who do not qualify for Mass Health. Sliding scale fee.
- **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund**  
[www.mass.gov/catastrophic-illness-in-children-relief-fund-cicrf](http://www.mass.gov/catastrophic-illness-in-children-relief-fund-cicrf) (800) 882-1435 (617) 624-6060  
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) 218-4331  
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 (Pedi Pal)**  
[www.mass.gov/pediatric-palliative-care-network-ppcn](http://www.mass.gov/pediatric-palliative-care-network-ppcn)  
Provides support and services to families caring for children with life-limiting illness

## **MassMATCH Massachusetts Initiative to Maximize Assistive Technology (AT) in Consumer's Hands**

[www.massmatch.org/index.php](http://www.massmatch.org/index.php)

Multiple programs enabling access to assistive technology, including Assistive Technology Regional Centers for trial and short-term loan, Massachusetts Alternative Finance Program for purchasing assistive technology, EQUIPMENT for refurbished, used durable medical equipment, and Get AT Stuff Massachusetts, a clearinghouse for assistive technology available from families

## **Courageous Parents Network**

[www.courageousparentsnetwork.org/](http://www.courageousparentsnetwork.org/)

Orients and empowers parents and others caring for children with serious illness, by providing resources and tools that reflect the experience and perspective of other families and clinicians.

## **Complex Child**

[www.complexchild.org](http://www.complexchild.org)

Parent electronic newsletter that includes content written by parents of children with healthcare needs and disabilities, as well as individuals with disabilities.

## **The Federation for Children with Special Needs**

[www.fcsn.org](http://www.fcsn.org) (800) 331-0688

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**

[www.massfamilyties.org](http://www.massfamilyties.org) (800) 905-TIES (8437)

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**

[www.massfamilyties.org/parent-to-parent-program/](http://www.massfamilyties.org/parent-to-parent-program/) (617) 399-8382

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**

[www.fcsn.org/mfv/](http://www.fcsn.org/mfv/) (800) 331-0688

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, Facebook group, 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 Facebook Group**

[www.facebook.com/groups/1407205172695871/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1407205172695871/)

The Family to Family Health Information Center at Mass Family Voices sponsors and moderates a closed Facebook group for parents and professional partners to ask questions, support each other, and provide information on opportunities.

## **Mass Families**

[www.massfamilies.org/](http://www.massfamilies.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.

## **Northeast ARC**

[www.ne-arc.org/](http://www.ne-arc.org/) (855) 696-3272

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

## **Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council**

[www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-developmental-disabilities-council](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/massachusetts-developmental-disabilities-council) (617) 770-7676

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**

[www.mass.gov/service-details/council-empowerment-funds-program](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/council-empowerment-funds-program) (617) 770-7676, ext. 109 or email [Christine.Joyal@mass.gov](mailto:Christine.Joyal@mass.gov)

Program to reimburse up to \$250 in expenses for individuals with developmental disabilities and/or family members or guardians to attend relevant conferences, trainings and events in Massachusetts

## **Greater Massachusetts Special Needs Events**

[www.spedchildmass.com/](http://www.spedchildmass.com/)

Subscribe to this calendar of events for children with special needs and their families to receive biweekly email updates.