

Support for Families

Navigate Life Texas

Navigate Life Texas is a resource website for families of children with disabilities and special health care needs. The website includes tools, articles, and videos about diagnoses, health care, family support, and more. To learn more, visit navigatelifetexas.org.

Texas Parent to Parent

Texas Parent to Parent is a parent-led non-profit organization that provides support for families of children with disabilities, special health care needs, and chronic illnesses. To learn more, visit txp2p.org.

Learn More About Birth Defects

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:
cdc.gov/ncbddd/birthdefects
- March of Dimes:
marchofdimes.org
- Texas Birth Defects Epidemiology & Surveillance Branch:
dshs.texas.gov/birthdefects

About Us

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Systems Development Group works to improve care for children and youth with special health care needs. We partner with community-based organizations across Texas to provide support for families of CSHCN. To see a list of our community-based partners, visit dshs.texas.gov/mch/CSHCN/CSHCN-Contractors.aspx.

Contact CSHCN Systems Development Group

Department of State Health Services
CSHCN Systems Development Group
Mail Code: 1922
PO BOX 149347
Austin, TX 78714-9347

512-776-7373
CSHCNSDG@dshs.texas.gov

dshs.texas.gov/mch/CSHCN.aspx

Children with Special Health Care Needs



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

A Resource Guide for Families

It can be scary and confusing to learn that your child has a disability or special health care need. In Texas, there are many resources to help you and your family get the care, services, and support you need. This brochure describes different services and programs that might be useful to your family.



2-1-1 Texas

2-1-1 Texas is a program that helps connect Texans to the services they need. This service is available by phone by dialing 2-1-1 or on the internet at 211texas.org. 2-1-1 Texas includes resources in many categories such as health/medical, child care, disability, food, and mental health. It is also free, anonymous, and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Health Care Services

STAR Kids

STAR Kids is the Texas Medicaid managed care program for children under the age of 21 with disabilities. Benefits include:

- Primary, specialty, and hospital care
- Prescription drugs
- Medical equipment and supplies

To learn more, visit

hhs.texas.gov/services/health/medicaid-chip/programs/star-kids.

Medicaid Buy-In for Children

This program is for families who have a child with a disability, but make too much money to get regular Medicaid. Families can “buy-in” to Medicaid coverage by making monthly payments. Benefits include:

- Doctor’s visits and rides to the doctor
- Vision, hearing, dental, and hospital care
- Prescriptions, lab tests, and x-rays

To learn more, visit

yourtexasbenefits.hhsc.texas.gov/programs/health/child/buy-in.

Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program

The CSHCN Services Program helps children under the age of 21 who have special health care needs and people with cystic fibrosis of any age. Benefits include medical, mental health, dental, and vision services. The program also provides case management, medical equipment, and family support services. To learn more, visit hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/children-special-health-care-needs-program.

Early Childhood Intervention (ECI)

ECI helps families with children from birth through age 3 who have developmental delays, disabilities, or certain medical conditions that may affect development. If your child is eligible for ECI services, your ECI team will evaluate your child and family’s routine. Your ECI team will develop a plan for services based on the evaluation. To learn more, visit hhs.texas.gov/services/disability/early-childhood-intervention-services.

