

Children's Special Health Care Services

What is Children's Special Health Care Services?

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) provides supplemental medical coverage to help families of children who have serious, chronic medical conditions, age birth to 21 years of age, who meet the program's financial and medical criteria, pay for treatment related to their child's condition.

Are There Other Names Children's Special Health Care Services is Known By?

The CSHCS program, like other programs, is sometimes referred to by several different names. Families should be aware that the program may be called Children's, CSHC, Crippled Children's, or Special Health Care.

Who is Eligible?

Eligibility for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitative services is based on both medical and financial criteria.

Medical eligibility requires that a child be 21 years of age or younger. There is an exception to the age requirement (no age limit) for an individual with Cystic Fibrosis. The child must have a severe chronic medical condition that:

- has lasted (or is expected to last) at least two years
- will produce disability or disfigurement or limits on function
- requires a special diet or devices, or
- would produce a chronic disabling physical condition if untreated

Some of the physical conditions that may qualify a child for services from CSHCS include:

- apnea
- autism
- cerebral palsy
- cleft lip and/or palate
- congenital heart disease or arrhythmias
- chronic pulmonary disease
- endocrine deficiencies
- severe hemophilia
- inflammatory bowel disease
- neuromuscular dysfunction
- renal disease
- oncologic disorders (e.g. cancer)
- congenital or acquired developmental deformities
- arthritis
- severe asthma
- chronic anemia
- seizure disorder
- chromosomal disorders
- cystic fibrosis (lifetime coverage)
- hydrocephalus
- inborn errors of metabolism
- myelodysplasia or spinal cord dysfunction (e.g. spina bifida)
- profound bilateral hearing loss

NOTE: All Indiana children and youth who have special health care needs (CYSHCN) are eligible to receive Care Coordination services through the program. For additional information, contact 317-233-1351; Toll Free 1-800-475-1355, Option 6; or email cs hcscarecoordinatio@health.in.gov.

Apply for CSHCS:

At Riley Hospital, Room 1669 Indianapolis, IN

Call 1-800-475-1355 to have an application mailed to you.

Via First Steps Coordinator

Download application <https://www.in.gov/health/cshcs/participant-eligibility/>

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Financial/Income Guidelines:

A family with an income (before taxes) at or below 250% of the federal poverty level may qualify.

What does CSHCS Cover/Provide?

Depending on a family's needs and the child's medical condition, services may include:

- community referrals and information
- diagnostic evaluation
- comprehensive well child and sick child care
- immunizations
- prescription drugs
- routine dental care
- mileage reimbursement for non-Medicaid covered participants, travel to and from medical appointments if travel exceeds 50 miles total (restrictions apply)
- specialty care and other services related to the eligible medical condition(s)

NOTE: It is important to remember that all other insurance must be utilized first and the rules of primary insurance policies must be followed before CSHCS will consider payment. All services that CSHCS pays for must be directly related to the eligible medical condition(s) with the exception of routine primary and dental care visits, immunizations, and prescription drugs. For example, for a child with severe asthma, CSHCS may pay for medications needed and visits to a pulmonologist, but it will not pay for treatment for a broken leg.

How do I Apply?

Download an application at: <https://www.in.gov/health/cshcs/participant-eligibility/>. You may call CSHCS Customer Service (317-233-1351 or 1-800-475-1355) to request an application be mailed to you. Or families can apply via First Steps or at the CSHCS office located at Riley Hospital Room 1669 (Indianapolis).

To complete the application, you'll need:

- your child's birth certificate
- proof of residence (rent or property payment receipt, voter's registration, driver's license)
- health insurance information
- proof for all household members income (three consecutive current paycheck stubs, most recently filed federal income tax forms, Government Award letters, private/public pension information, child support or TANF)
- Proof of Medicaid application

How Can I Learn More?

More information about the program can be found at <https://www.in.gov/health/cshcs/>, or by calling CSHCS Customer Service at 317-233-1351 or 1-800-475-1355.

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated March 2024. Please check <https://www.inf2f.org/fact-sheets.html> for the most recent edition.

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