

Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CHC) Program

(800) 482-5850 Extension 22270 or 22277

Guidelines for Parents

The Children with Chronic Health Conditions (CHC) program supports children and youth with conditions that require support and services beyond those of their typically-developing peers. Eligible conditions include developmental disabilities in addition to chronic health conditions. Children and youth with special health care needs have the same needs as typically-developing children in addition to their need for other types of supports based on their condition and individual and family needs. CHC is here to help! The following guidelines are to assist you in understanding our program.

ABOUT THE CHC PROGRAM:

CHC provides care coordination services (case management) to support families of children and youth in accessing community-based, family-centered, culturally sensitive services which will assist children with special health care needs to reach their maximum potential. Arkansas' CHC program's goals are:

- To assist families in accessing sufficient health care services
- To assist families with transition from pediatric to adult systems of care

CHC serves children and youth from birth to age 21, with a long term physical or developmental condition. Some examples include:

- Asthma, Diabetes, Sickle Cell Anemia, Cystic Fibrosis, childhood cancers, and heart disease
- Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Hearing impairment and limited vision impairments
- Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy and
- Many other health conditions.

CHC ELIGIBILITY:

Your child with a diagnosed condition that meets eligibility requirements must be an Arkansas resident under 21 years of age, who is Medicaid-eligible (SSI, TEFRA, or AR Kids A) and not receiving case management services through another program. Applicants must meet financial and medical eligibility requirements. Eligibility is determined initially, and then annually by the CHC program administration. The child/family receives notification via letter of eligibility.

The following children are not eligible to receive CHC Services:

- Children who are currently receiving case management services through another program (i.e., children enrolled in a Provider-Led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE))
- Recipients of the 1915(c) Autism Waiver
- Children receiving Hospice Care without concurrent disease modifying treatment
- Children living in a residential care setting, such as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility

NOTE: You know your child best. If your child is an infant or toddler and does not have a diagnosed condition that would qualify him/her for the CHC program but you have concerns about your child's development, request that his/her doctor (primary care provider) complete a developmental screening or refer your child for a developmental screening with the State's birth to 3 early intervention program, First Connections <https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dds/firstconnectionsweb/#fc-home>. For children ages 3-5, contact your local school district or educational cooperative.

CARE COORDINATION:

Families of children that are CHC-eligible receive assistance from a CHC Registered Nurse (RN) Care Coordinator in coordinating their child's care. CHC RN Care Coordinators have helped families with:

- Finding a medical home
- Finding information about their child's condition
- Finding support in times of stress and crisis
- Obtaining medical equipment related to their child's special needs
- Coordinating payment for their child's special health care needs
- Working with all the professionals on a plan that meets their child's and their family's needs
- Transitioning from the pediatric care system to an adult care system
- Applying for insurance for their child as he/she transitions to adulthood

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Your family is the center of the team of providers who will be tending to the needs of your child, because you know your child better than anyone else!

CHC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS:

When funding allows, CHC provides limited direct services to fill an unmet need when no other program, service, or pay source exists in the State to provide these services to families of eligible children under the age of 18. Services for CHC-eligible children are prior authorized by CHC. The CHC program is the “payer of last resort,” meaning that CHC funds cannot be used to pay for services covered by other programs or pay sources. If a child would be eligible for Medicaid (SSI, TEFRA, ARKids A or ARKids B) or for insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the family must apply for coverage before they can be considered for eligibility for CHC services.

CHC Program Assistance Categories:

Non-Medicaid Population:

Deductibles and Coinsurance: For CHC-eligible services covered by private insurance, CHC may assist with the deductible or coinsurance amount up to one month of household gross monthly income, as determined by CHC staff during eligibility determination, provided it does not exceed the assistance limit.

Medicaid Population:

- **Respite:** Temporary relief that allows the primary caregiver of a child with a disability or special health care needs to have an occasional break from caring for the child. Eligibility guidelines apply and include coverage by SSI or TEFRA Medicaid and evaluation of child’s functional level. Respite services must be provided by a Medicaid- enrolled provider of respite, supportive living, or personal care services.

Both Medicaid & Non-Medicaid Population:

Please Note: The examples provided below are not an exhaustive list of possible needs that could be met through the CHC Program Assistance categories.

- **Adaptive Equipment:** Any assistive technology device, equipment, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve the performance of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for an eligible child. Adaptive equipment may be purchased off-the-shelf, modified, or custom made. Some examples include: adaptive feeding utensils, wheelchairs, communication devices, portable wheelchair ramps, sensory items (weighted blankets), etc.
- **Medical Camps:** Camps specifically designed to meet a child’s specific medical and/or developmental needs while providing opportunities for children with medical needs or developmental delays to increase independence and learn from social interactions with peers. Some examples include: Diabetic Camp, Hematology/Oncology Camp, Camp Aldersgate, Asthma Camp, Camp Barnabas, We Care Foundation Medical Camps.
- **Medically Necessary Item or Equipment:** A medically necessary item or equipment prescribed by a primary care physician (PCP) or other attending medical practitioner. Some examples include: PKU foods, hearing aids, scoliosis brace, insulin pumps, and diabetic supplies.
- **Parent Education:** Fees and necessary expenses associated with parent/guardian acquiring knowledge of their eligible child’s CHC-qualifying disability or delay. Some examples include: condition-specific conference registration fees, travel expense for parent (hotel, airfare, or meals), condition-specific classes or workshops, and educational materials (books, DVDs, etc.).
- **Vehicle Modification:** Modification in accordance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements that allows the vehicle to be accessible for an eligible child and increase the eligible child’s mobility or access to services. Some examples include: wheelchair carrier, lift, or ramp.

RIGHT TO APPEAL

Any CHC applicant/recipient has the right to appeal a CHC decision. To appeal a decision, you must make the request in writing to the CHC Program Director within ten (10) business day from the date of notification.