

If I Need . . .

Children's Services

Early Intervention

This program provides a variety of services for eligible families of young children (ages 0 to 3), with developmental delay or disability, including but not limited to:

- Assistive technology devices and services
- Audiology/aural rehabilitation
- Evaluations and assessments
- Family training and support
- Nursing services
- Nutrition services
- Occupational therapy
- Physical therapy
- Psychological services
- Service Coordination
- Speech language pathology and audiology
- Transportation and related costs
- Vision services

Services provided within a child's natural environment are focused on family education and support to help children learn and grow.

How to Access this Benefit: Call (800) 323-4769 or online at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=31183

Child Care Assistance Program

Illinois provides low-income, working families with access to quality, affordable childcare. Families are required to pay part of the cost on a sliding scale based on family size and income. To get help with child care, you must live in Illinois, meet the income guidelines of the program, be employed, enrolled in an approved

activity. Your child must be under the age of 13 years, unless the child has documented special needs for ongoing care.

To see if you may be eligible for this assistance go to www.dhs.state.il.us/applications/ChildCareEligCalc/eligcalc.html

How to Access this Benefit: To find a Child Care Resource & Referral agency in your area visit the IDHS office locator page at www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=12&officetype=2&county= or the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral agencies at www.inccrra.org/



Home Visiting Programs

Home visiting programs offer a variety of family-focused services to expecting parents and families with new babies and young children. They work on topics like maternal and child health, positive parenting practices, safe home environments, and access to services. There are a number of home visiting programs available, depending where you live, such as Healthy Families Illinois, Nurse Family Partnership, and Head Start.

How to Access this Benefit: www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=56690

<http://illinoisap.org/home-visiting/>
www.igrowillinois.org/parents/find-a-home-visiting-program/

Division of Specialized Care for Children

The Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSSC) helps children who have certain chronic, treatable conditions. They help children with conditions such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, hearing loss, and technology dependent children requiring in-home nursing care. If you do not have a clear diagnosis for your child, they can help you obtain free testing through their approved providers.

Any Illinois child from birth to age 21 may qualify for this program. The type of help you may receive will depend on your specific needs. The DSSC Care Coordinators provide support in the following areas:

- Accessing free diagnostic tests
- Finding resources and information
- Preparing for transition
- Finding specialized medical care
- Developing a care coordination plan
- Paying for certain medical expenses
- Using insurance & All Kids / Medicaid
- Communicating with doctors, specialists, and schools

How to Access this Benefit: Visit <http://dssc.uic.edu> or call 800-322-3722 for more information.



If I Need . . .

Children's Services cont.

Homeless Children (McKinney-Vento)

Homeless children are provided assistance in order to help them stay in school under the McKinney-Vento Act. Children are considered homeless under these rules if they:

- Share housing with other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Live in motels, hotels, trailer parks, cars, parks, campgrounds or on the street due to lack of alternative and adequate accommodations
- Live in emergency or transitional shelters
- Are awaiting foster care placement

If you or your children meet this definition of being homeless, you have a number of rights.

- You may choose to have your child stay in the school attended before becoming homeless, or enroll in a school where you now live.
- You may immediately enroll your child in school, even if you do not have the paperwork normally required to enroll.
- Your child(ren) has the right to receive transportation to their school of origin. You or your child must request the transportation from the homeless liaison at your school.
- You should not have to pay any school fees for your child(ren).
- Your child should be able to receive free lunches through the School Lunch Program.

You need to let your child's school know if your child meets the McKinney-Vento rules. If your school denies your child the right to register and receive services, contact the local homeless liaison at the school your child attends <http://webapps.isbe.net/homelesschildliaison/>. Help may be available from an agency that services homeless youth.

Vaccinations

Illinois has minimum immunization requirements for children entering a childcare facility or school. If you cannot afford immunizations, the Vaccines for Children Program provides funding for vaccines at no cost to the patient or the provider.

Children through 18 years of age who meet at least one of the following criteria may be eligible to receive vaccines through this program:

- Enrolled in Medicaid.
- Not insured: A child who has no health insurance coverage.
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Under-insured: A child who has private health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines, a child whose insurance covers only selected vaccines



(VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only), or a child whose insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Under-insured children are eligible to receive VFC vaccine only through a Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health Clinic, or deputized local health departments.

Parents should check with their primary health care provider to see if they participate in the VFC program.

To locate providers in your area go to: <http://vfc.illinois.gov/search/>.

Parents or legal guardians who object to their child being immunized for religious reasons must submit a Certificate of Religious Exemption, signed by a health care provider. To obtain a copy of the form go to <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/religious-exemption-form-081815-040816.pdf>

Family Planning

Family Planning is a birth control program for low-income women and teens. It offers:

- Physical exams
- Pregnancy testing and options counseling
- Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) education, testing and treatment.
- Birth control methods and counseling including emergency contraception
- Community education services for professionals, schools, parents and teens

Services are offered for free or on a sliding fee scale for all low income women and teens.

To find a Family Planning Clinic go to: <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/> and enter your city and state or your zip code into the search field:

Find a Family Planning Clinic

Office of Population Affairs

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