



Starting Points for Service Coordinators Medically Complex or Multiple Disabilities

INFORMATION *This list is not meant to be all inclusive.*

What are Specialty Services? Specialty Services are provided to children enrolled in an Early Intervention Program who have been identified as requiring specialized services due to complex medical needs or multiple disabilities, have a diagnosis of vision loss, hearing loss, or Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Children with specialty service conditions, including complex medical needs or multiple disabilities, may require specialized care and services that may not be appropriately, adequately, or specifically provided within the existing early intervention system. A regional coordinator with knowledge of and access to additional resources may be needed to supplement the child's program.

Who is the Specialty Service Provider for children with complex medical needs or multiple disabilities? *The Department of Public Health created 6 Regional Consultation Programs to facilitate access to additional services for children with complex medical needs or multiple disabilities enrolled in Early Intervention.*

REASONS FOR REFERRAL

Children enrolled in Early Intervention with complex medical needs or multiple disabilities may be referred to the Regional Consultation Program (RCP). For example, a child who regularly visits 3 or more physicians may be a good candidate for the RCP. Regional Consultation Programs provide child specific consultation to families regarding complicated care needs and support services. They work collaboratively with Early Intervention Programs, promoting successful inclusion of children in home and community settings.

REFERRAL PROCESS

- A Regional Consultation Program referral form is available at your Early Intervention Program.
- Send the completed form to the Regional Consultation Program that serves your Early Intervention Region. Contact information for each regional program is available at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/early-intervention-ei-regional-consultation-programs>
- The Regional Consultation Program Coordinator from your region will then contact you to set up a joint home visit.

If there is a question or concern about whether to refer, contact the Regional Consultation Program Coordinator from your Early Intervention region.

WHAT DOES THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROGRAM PROVIDE TO FAMILIES?

- Resource information and referrals
- Family events, parent networking opportunities and trainings
- Adaptive equipment and assistive technology
- Respite funds when available

The RCP will contact the Early Intervention Service Coordinator to schedule an initial visit for resource and referral consultation, with follow up as needed, and additional resource consultation at transition. In addition, the RCP will provide ongoing opportunities for family networking and support.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Refer early if you can so that children and their families may fully benefit from Regional Consultation Program services.
- Service Coordinators play a vital role in enabling families to explore and access opportunities identified by the Regional Consultation Program.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL NEEDS

For more information about these resources, contact your Regional Consultation Program Coordinator.

Parent Resources

- ❑ Complexchild.org – parent electronic newsletter with archived issues www.complexchild.org
- ❑ Courageous Parents Network- online support and webinars for parents <https://courageousparentsnetwork.org/>
- ❑ Family Ties – parent coordinator, resource book, Parent- to- Parent Program www.massfamilyties.org
- ❑ Early Intervention Parent Leadership Project- resources and opportunities for families enrolled in EI www.eiplp.org
- ❑ Mass Family Voices – Listserv; assistance with applying for MassHealth <http://fcsn.org/mfv/>
- ❑ Massachusetts Families Organizing for Change – help parents with advocacy www.mfofc.org

Financial Assistance

- ❑ Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council Consumer Empowerment Funds <http://www.mass.gov/anf/employment-equal-access-disability/disability-info-and-resources/dev-disabilities-info/grant-info/council-empowerment-funds-program.html>
- ❑ 211 Hotline – quick and easy access to information about health and human services www.mass211.org
- ❑ Fuel assistance – low income home energy assistance <http://www.mass.gov/hed/community/energy/low-income-home-energy-assistance-liheap.html>

Complex Care Resources

- ❑ MASSTART – school transition <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/special-needs/masstart-brochure.pdf>
- ❑ Department of Public Health Care Coordination- ongoing assistance with resources and referrals <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/care-coordination.html>
- ❑ The Federation for Children with Special Needs – www.fcsn.org
- ❑ MassMatch- assistive technology www.massmatch.org/
- ❑ Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dds/>
 - DDS General Family Support
 - Medically Fragile Family Partnership Program
 - Intensive Flexible Family Support
- ❑ Pediatric Palliative Care Network – supports and services for families caring for children with life-limiting illness <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/family-health/pediatric-palliative-care.html>
- ❑ Department of Early Education and Care – help to identify childcare sites more comfortable with medical needs <http://www.mass.gov/edu/government/departments-and-boards/departments-of-early-education-and-care/>

OTHER RESOURCES

Determine eligibility for entitlements, based on family's financial situation.

Call the Department of Public Health, Division for Children & Youth with Special Health Needs Community Support Line at 1-800-882-1435 for information on these resources and public benefits (*This is a great place to start if you aren't sure about a family's eligibility for other public benefit programs or services*)

- ❑ **Mass Health/CommonHealth** (*buy-in program of Mass Health for children with disabilities*)
- ❑ **Kaleigh Mulligan** (*home care for children whose severe health care needs require care equivalent to a hospital or nursing facility*)
- ❑ **Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund** (*financial reimbursement for families who have extraordinary out-of-pocket expenses relating to their child's special health care needs*) www.mass.gov/cicrf
- ❑ **Community Case Management** (*approval for in home nursing for medically fragile children on Mass Health*) 1-800-863-6068
- ❑ **SSI** (*Social Security benefits for children with disabilities with limited financial resources*) 1-800-772-1213 www.ssa.gov/pubs/10026.html
- ❑ **WIC** (*nutrition program that provides free nutrition and health education, healthy food and other services to families who qualify*) To apply call 1-800-WIC-1007 or the WIC program in your community.
- ❑ **SNAP** (*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (to help low-income households buy food)*) <http://www.mass.gov/snap>