



# Central Michigan District Health Department

*Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities*



Steve Hall, RS, MS  
Health Officer

Jennifer Morse, MD, MPH, FAAFP  
Medical Director

## PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

**To: Local Media Outlets**

**From: Central Michigan District Health Department**

**RE: Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)**

**Release Date: September 7, 2023**

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) is a secondary insurance program designed to support families that include children with eligible chronic health conditions. **Families with private health insurance are eligible for CSHCS.** CSHCS is also available for adults with cystic fibrosis, sickle cell disease, and bleeding disorders. The CSHCS Program helps to pay medical costs not covered by other insurance and is related to the child's medical diagnosis. Examples of medical conditions that are often covered include diabetes, heart conditions, kidney disease, birth defects, cystic fibrosis, cleft palate/lip, cancer, and many other serious diseases or conditions. There are over 2,700 medical conditions that qualify a child for the CSHCS Program. The program is expanding its age perimeters from the age of 21 to the age of 26 years old beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>.

"Children's Special Health Care Services is a wonderful program that helps so many families," said Kelly Conley, CMDHD Personal Health Director. "The great thing about it is that even those with private insurance are eligible."

The staff at CMDHD provide CSHCS education in our community to families and healthcare providers, so that others can better understand the program and its benefits. There are no income limits to this program; however, there may be a co-pay or payment plan for some families with higher incomes. Staff at our office can assist any family in applying for the program after a child has received a qualifying medical diagnosis. Once someone is found to be eligible through a physician review of their medical history at the state CSHCS office, the local health department staff works with the family over the year to assist with any medical support, transportation needs, complex billing issues, or when overnight stays away from home are needed for medical treatment.

CMDHD employees have helped families write emails or make phone calls to insurance companies for assistance to get denials for necessary medical care reversed. CMDHD staff are also available to help obtain

**Please visit us online at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org).**

other necessary items that may not be covered by insurance, such as wheelchair ramps or air conditioners. The families that we serve have had numerous great things to say about our staff:

- “Please recognize and reward nurse Sarah in Isabella County. She is amazing.”
- “Very thankful for the services offered. Thank you.”
- “I always talk with Cindy, and she is excellent. Always friendly and very caring. She is definitely one of my favorite people to talk to regarding my children.”
- “We have been happy with responsiveness and support.”

Once a child is enrolled, CSHCS local office staff can help to provide:

- Assistance in obtaining reimbursement for travel and lodging when visiting out-of-town doctors.
- Help with finding specialty physicians, hospitals, and services specific to the child’s diagnosis.
- Help with services for children with special needs that cannot be provided by other state funded programs.
- Care coordination, support groups, and community-based services.
- Help to find resources specific to the family needs.
- Education regarding the CSHCS patient’s medical condition.
- Help planning the transition of young people to adult health care.

CSHCS is administered by the State of Michigan, with local representatives assigned for each county health department. For more information, please visit [www.michigan.gov/cshcs](http://www.michigan.gov/cshcs) or call the CSHCS Family Center phone line at 1-800-359-3722 or CMDHD at (989) 314-7570.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at [www.cmdhd.org](http://www.cmdhd.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

###

*To request an interview, please visit our website ([cmdhd.org](http://cmdhd.org)) and fill out the [Media Interview Request Form](#).*