

California Advocacy Network for Children with Special Health Care Needs

News, policy updates, resources, events, and advocacy opportunities

Dear Readers,

Please see COVID-19 news throughout the sections below, and also find information that was listed in past newsletters on our [COVID-19 Resources Page](#).

Network News

Foundation Accepting Grant Inquiries

Letters of Inquiry (LOI) for the Foundation's next grant cycle will be accepted until **June 11**. We fund programs and projects that contribute to improving systems of care for children with special health care needs and their families. We strongly recommend that potential applicants carefully review our program goals, priorities, and restrictions before submitting an LOI. [Read about the application process](#).

Serving CSHCN in Medicaid Managed Care: Targeted Contract Language

States increasingly are enrolling children with special health care needs in Medicaid managed care plans. A new tool from the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP) provides examples of how five states have incorporated aspects of the [National Standards for Systems of Care for CYSHCN](#) into their Medicaid managed care contracts to better meet the needs of these children. The provisions align with domains from the Standards, including identification/assessment, access to care, medical home/care coordination, and quality. This work was supported by our Foundation. [Read more](#).

Transition to Adult Care

A Transition Guide for Youth; Billing Tips for Providers

- [Are You Ready to Take Charge of Your Health? Five Steps to Prepare for Health Care Transition](#) (PDF); También disponible en [Español](#). – from Got Transition
- [2020 Coding and Reimbursement Tip Sheet for Transition from Pediatric to Adult Health Care](#) (PDF) – from Got Transition and the American Academy of Pediatrics

COVID-19 News

- [Betsy DeVos Gets Mixed Reaction to Decision to Leave Intact Law on Educating Students with Disabilities During Pandemic](#) – An article from [The Washington Post](#).
- On April 28, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) updated its page on [COVID-19 and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#).
- [Know Your Rights: Emergency Paid Sick Days and Paid Leave for Child Care and Coronavirus](#) – A fact sheet produced by the [National Partnership for Children and Families](#). También disponible en [Español](#) (PDF).
- [Consejos y Recursos para Familiares y Cuidadores de Niños y Jóvenes con Necesidades Especiales de Atención Médica](#) – Resources from the [California Department of Public Health](#).
- [Uninsured and Unemployed? Medicaid and CHIP Provide Lifelines to Families in Need](#) – The [Georgetown Center for Children and Families](#) explains eligibility requirements and enrollment processes for affected families.
- [Supplemental Security Income Recipients, Act Now](#) – The [Social Security Administration](#) has issued a reminder that people who receive SSI, have dependents, and do not file tax returns must apply by **May 5** to receive a \$500 per child payment.
- The [National Center for Complex Health and Social Needs](#) has conducted a series of webinars on COVID-19, including one on the unique impacts of the pandemic on individuals with complex health and social needs. [Find all four webinars](#).

Telehealth and COVID-19

- [A Telehealth Surge Allows Patients and Providers to See the Value of Visits](#) – A [Children's Hospitals Today](#) article highlights how Stanford Children's Health handled a sudden influx of telehealth visits, and notes the potential benefits telehealth might hold for future care.
- To assist states and stakeholders in advancing the use of telehealth, the [Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services \(CMS\)](#) has released a [Medicaid and CHIP Telehealth Toolkit](#) (PDF) with a special emphasis on pediatrics.
- [Fact Sheet on Telehealth and Medicaid During COVID-19](#) – The [National Health Law Program](#) explores ways that state Medicaid programs can expand telehealth, while protecting patient rights, including privacy and consent.

Home Health Care and COVID-19

Home- and community-based services are even more essential during the pandemic. Several articles highlight the physical and financial concerns and potential solutions.

- [Disability Advocates Say Billions Needed for Community-Based Services](#)
Disability Scoop, 4/27/2020
- [Protecting Healthcare's Family Caregivers Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
Health Affairs, 4/24/20
- [Home-Care Workers Facing Numerous Challenges During Pandemic](#)
Association of Health Care Journalists, 4/20/20

Family Engagement

Virtual Series on Leadership in Family and Professional Partnerships Continues

The Leadership in Family and Professional Partnerships convening from Family Voices brings together family leaders, Title V professionals, and other stakeholders to discuss successful strategies and best practices on how to improve engagement of families, particularly those from medically underserved populations. Five remaining online Zoom sessions are scheduled through May 19, and recordings of past sessions are available. [Read more and register](#).

In Brief

- [Partnering for Success: How Family Organizations and Title V Agencies Can Utilize the Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health](#) (PDF) – Hosted by Family Voices Leadership in Family and Professional Partnerships

California Children's Services

Guidelines Issued for CCS Services During Pandemic

The Department of Health Care Services has issued guidance on the [California Children's Services Program During COVID-19](#) (PDF). These guidelines provide temporary direction to County California Children's Services (CCS) and Special Care Centers (SCC), and cover key issues including telehealth, durable medical equipment, prior authorization, and much more.

In Brief

- The Department of Health Care Services on April 29 issued revised guidance about [Medical Therapy Units During COVID-19](#) (PDF).
- On April 22, a Governor's Executive Order authorized the Department of Health Care Services to hold the [fair hearing process](#) (PDF) for California Children's Services grievances and appeals by phone or video conference.
- To keep track of all recent state guidelines, see the [Department of Health Care Services COVID-19 page](#).

California Policy

- Guidance regarding redetermination of eligibility of [a parent to be a paid In-Home Supportive Services provider](#) (PDF) during COVID-19.
- The Medi-Cal Children's Health Advisory Panel met on April 24. See the [agenda and slide presentation](#).

National Policy

How States May Use Medicaid Waivers to Support Children, CSHCN During Pandemic

More than a dozen states have submitted 1115 waiver applications that have the potential to safeguard access to care and increase support for children during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a new blog from the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP). The blog notes a selection of key strategies for serving children that other states may want to consider through their Medicaid programs. Topics include payments to foster caregivers, reimbursement of family caregivers, and telephonic and virtual care coordination services, all of which are significant for children with special health care needs. [Read the blog](#).

Webinars

Trudging through COVID-19: Coping with Provider Grief and Moral Distress

Date Wednesday, May 6
Time 1 to 2 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsors Jacob's Heart Children's Cancer Support Services, Pennsylvania's Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition, Greater Illinois Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition, Stanford Medical School, and the CSU Shiley Institute for Palliative Care
Details This webinar will provide an opportunity to address the vastness of the COVID-19 crisis, and the grief, loss, and stress that providers are experiencing. It also will serve as a network for social support during this unprecedented time. [Register](#).

In-Home Supportive Services, Medi-Cal, Social Security COVID-19 Updates

Date Wednesday, May 6
Time 6 to 7 p.m. Pacific Time
Sponsors Disability Rights California, California State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Details Details are provided in [English](#) and [Español](#). [Register](#).

Resource

- [Exceptional Parent Magazine April Issue – Autism as Comedy](#)

In the News

- [Stanford Has Made a Reusable Mask from Scuba Gear – and It's Shipping It to the Front Lines of the Pandemic](#)
Washington Post, 4/29/20
- [Students with Special Needs Donate Face Shields Made with 3D Printers](#)
Disability Scoop, 4/28/20
- [Kids Who Rely on Ventilators Can't Get Enough Supplies, Putting Their Lives at Risk](#)
California Health Report, 4/22/20
- [Parents of Those with Disabilities Seek Exception to COVID-19 No-Visitor Rules](#)
Disability Scoop, 4/21/20

We'd like to hear from you

Let us know what's happening with your organization or family. Email newsletter editor Eileen Walsh at Eileen.Walsh@lpfch.org with your news or updates.

