

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs NETWORK NEWSLETTER

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

Dear Readers:

We will pause the newsletter in July and resume with our next issue on August 20. In the meantime, please [follow us on LinkedIn](#) to get the latest news and information.

NATIONAL POLICY AND RESOURCES

Feds Update EPSDT Coverage Guide on Children's Medical Benefits

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services recently announced an updated Medicaid EPSDT (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment) Coverage Guide that refreshes the tool that states, health plans, providers, and advocates rely on to understand children's benefits. A Georgetown University Center for Children and Families blog encourages using the guide to maintain coverage for all medically necessary care for children.

[Read the blog](#)

[See updated EPSDT coverage guide](#)

Education Department to Move Special Education, Civil Rights Out of the Agency

The US Department of Education announced plans to move work overseeing special-education services and civil rights out of the agency. The Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, which oversees the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA, will move to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Office for Civil Rights will move to the Department of Justice. Disability rights groups have lobbied against the move of special-education services, citing concern that it will lead to fewer students with disabilities receiving needed and federally mandated services.

[See NPR coverage](#)

Also see: [American Association of People with Disabilities' statement on this announcement](#)

House Committee Passes Bill with Gains, Concerns for Maternal and Child Health Funding

The House Committee on Appropriations recently approved a 2027 funding bill that has raised concern among advocates because it advances proposed cuts to critical maternal and child health programs, including Healthy Start and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities. The Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs issued a policy alert covering select funding proposals in the bill.

[See AMCHP's policy alert](#)

HOME HEALTH

ICYMI: Webinar Recording on Home Accessibility for Children with Disabilities

This webinar introduced Foundation-funded research on the national landscape of programs and policies that support home accessibility for children with disabilities and their families. A panel of experts, including people with lived experience, discussed common barriers to accessing necessary supports, the real-world impacts on children and families, and opportunities for action and advocacy.

Stay tuned for the second webinar this Fall: *The Best Kept Secret: Programs and Policies Across States to Support Accessible Homes for Children with Disabilities*. The series is hosted by our Foundation and the Johns Hopkins University Berman Institute of Bioethics.

[See the recording and slides](#)

CALIFORNIA POLICY AND RESOURCES

Children Now Urges Lawmakers to Stand Up for Children's Health Coverage

A recent op-ed from Children Now in the *California Health Report* makes the case for why lawmakers must act to protect children's health coverage as the final state budget is negotiated. The piece cites California's commitment to "Medi-Cal for all children" and notes that children's enrollment in Medi-Cal has declined more rapidly than that of adults over the past year. The author cites pending threats to children's coverage and notes that for children enrolled in Medi-Cal, the budget proposes to trim investment in new benefits and services, including the Enhanced Care Management Program that provides care coordination for CYSHCN.

[Read the Op-Ed](#)

Also see: [Cal Matters coverage of the state budget bill and Medi-Cal](#)

Webinar on In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) for Children: Assessment, Protective Services, and Hearings

The National Health Law Program is offering a training, approved for California Mandatory Continuing Legal Education credit for attorneys, which provides an overview of the IHSS program. The training will include hourly task guidelines, ranking functional limitations, and tips for navigating the IHSS assessment process. The webinar will also cover Protective Supervision eligibility and documentation strategies, approaches for working effectively with counties, and advocacy tips for hearings.

DATE/TIME: June 25 | 1 PM PT

National Health Law Program Resources for California Advocates

Medi-Cal is the nation's largest state Medicaid program, and the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) has compiled its many resources for protecting health care in California. This includes NHeLP's Medi-Cal Services Guide, a tool for advocates.

[See NHeLP's Protect California Health Care page](#)[See the Medi-Cal services guide](#)

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Review of Research on Family Engagement Among Families of CYSHCN

Family engagement is a priority for addressing the needs of CYSHCN. The science of family engagement is evolving, and better understanding of the current state of research could promote improved implementation. The Systems and Policy Research Network released a scoping review summarizing the literature on family engagement in systems-level research for families of CYSHCN, specifically focusing on definitions/descriptions of engagement, engagement measurement, and whether and how measures correlated with outcomes.

[See the review](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ICYMI: Webinar Recording on the Emerging Investigators Program

[Applications are due July 1](#) for the Systems and Policy Research Network's Emerging Investigator Program. A recording of a recent webinar about the program and application process is available. The program funds up to three projects each year dedicated to improving health systems for CYSHCN, providing selected investigators with up to \$15,000, mentorship, and research guidance. View the webinar to learn more.

[Watch the webinar and find the application](#)

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Early Bird Registration Open for Putting Care at the Center 2026

Putting Care at the Center 2026 is a national conference that brings together the complex care community, including those with lived experience, to learn, network, and create a shared agenda for the field. Co-hosted by the Camden Coalition and Kaiser Permanente, this year's conference, to be held in Oakland, is themed "Sustaining progress, building our future."

DATES: October 14-16

Registration and information

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Let us know what's happening with your organization or program. Send news and updates to info@lpfch.org. Thank you!

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