

Moving to Indiana

Families of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) have much to consider when making an interstate move. Often the supports and services they rely on differ by state. This fact sheet outlines services available in Indiana.

Federal Programs

If a family member receives federal benefits, such as SSI, SSDI, or Medicare, these benefits remain consistent, regardless of state. A change of address must be filed once moved to the new state. However, Medicaid eligibility and services may vary from state to state.

State Programs

*First Steps** provides early intervention services for children, birth to age 3, who have developmental delays or show signs of being at-risk to have certain delays in the future. Services are coordinated to give qualifying children the widest possible array of early intervention resources.

*Children's Special Healthcare Services** provides supplemental medical coverage from birth to age twenty-one for treatment related to a child's serious, chronic medical condition(s). Eligibility is based on diagnosis(es) and household income. A family with a pre-tax income at or below 250% of the federal poverty level may qualify.

*Childcare Vouchers** are available to families with an income up to 127% of the federal poverty level and who meet other eligibility criteria. Vouchers provide childcare assistance for typically developing children up to age 12 years; there is no age limit for CYSHCN. Funding for vouchers is county specific.

*Food** programs available in Indiana include Women, Infants and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Free and Reduced lunch.

*Medicaid Waivers** provide supports and services in the home and community rather than in an institutional setting. Family income and assets are not considered when determining Medicaid eligibility for a child under the age of 18 who is applying for a waiver. Indiana has two different categories of home and community-based waiver programs: institutional level of care and nursing facility level of care. Individuals must meet eligibility requirements for either program. Families should be aware that there may be waiting lists for waiver services.

Guardianship is not portable across state lines. Guardianship requirements vary by county.

Schools

Article 7 outlines Indiana's Special Education law. A parent-friendly guide to Article 7 is Navigating the Course: Finding Your Way Through Indiana's Special Education and is available here: <https://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/specialed/navigating-course-june-2017.pdf>. Special education services begin at age 3* for children who qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and supports and therapy services may continue through age 21, depending upon the child's diagnosis and needs.

*Section 504** plans provide accommodations for children who are not eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) but whose illness, physical or mental disability substantially limits one or more life activities,

To learn more about these and other programs, contact Family Voices Indiana. Program fact sheets are available on our website. We will assist you as you navigate health care systems and services, especially those available to individuals with special health care needs.
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such as caring for oneself, seeing, breathing, learning and walking. Students with asthma, diabetes, allergies, cerebral palsy and other chronic health conditions may be eligible for a 504 plan. These plans are not generally created by special education departments.

School Choice Vouchers are available upon request to Indiana families with students who meet both household income requirements and student eligibility. While the choice school does not have to offer supports for CYSHCN per se, parents wishing to send their child to a choice school have the option of selecting a public school as a provider of special services for a qualifying child.

In Indiana, *homeschooling* is considered a private school placement. The school district of record is responsible for offering a service plan to eligible students.

Providers

Families seeking *specialty and subspecialty medical care* may have difficulty finding these services in rural areas. Children's hospitals are frequently used for care coordination and specialty care, and there are two major hospitals located in the center of the state: Riley Children's Hospital and Peyton Manning Children's Hospital. Children's hospitals near Indiana borders, such as those in Chicago, Louisville and Cincinnati, are frequently used by families living in close proximity to those facilities.

Therapy Providers are available throughout the state. Primary therapies, such as occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT) and speech therapy are readily obtained, though some travel may be required. Specialty therapies, such as ABA therapy, music therapy, recreational therapy and other lesser known therapies are more difficult to access in rural areas than in the larger cities.

Additional Considerations

Many state programs require applicants to be Indiana residents. *Residency* is usually established after 30 days and with proof of residency/address documentation.

Additional Information

Parent support groups, diagnosis-specific organizations and other resource organizations may be able to offer additional information regarding programs and services.

Every state has a *Family-to-Family Health Information Center*. Family-to-Family Health Information Centers are non-profit, family-staffed organizations that help families of CYSHCN and the professionals who serve them. *Family Voices Indiana* serves Indiana in this capacity. If you are moving to Indiana, or considering a move to Indiana, we'd be happy to assist. We can be reached by calling 844-323-4636, or by emailing info@fvindiana.org

*Topical fact sheets discussing these programs are available on our website, at www.fvindiana.org/fact_sheets. Please check back often as we continue to create and update resources.