

# 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

While *Social Security Disability Income (SSDI)* remains the same across states, *Supplemental Security Income (SSI)\** may not. Some states offer supplements that add to the base monthly federal SSI payment. The amount of the supplement may be affected by the living situation, marital status, and other factors. Eligibility for SSDI and SSI do not change, and federal benefits remain the same.

*Medicare* benefits are not affected, although pricing and availability of private Medicare plans (supplemental plans) differ from state to state.

A change of address and notice of any change in living situation must be filed with the above programs once moved to the new state.

*Medicaid\** eligibility and services 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. There are frequently waiting lists.

*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-january-2018.pdf>.

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.  
**844-323-4636**  
**fvindiana.org**

Special education services begin at age 3\* for children who qualify for an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). 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, 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.

The parent or guardian of an eligible special education student will designate either the Choice school or the public school corporation as the special education service provider. For more information on the Choice Scholarship Program and special education, please review the Choice Scholarship and Special Education Services FAQ available on the Choice Scholarship Program website at [www.doe.in.gov/choice](http://www.doe.in.gov/choice).

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**

Some 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](mailto:info@fvindiana.org)

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

Programs and systems change often. It is important to ensure that you are using the most current information. This fact sheet was updated April 2019. Please check [http://fvindiana.org/fact\\_sheets](http://fvindiana.org/fact_sheets) for the most recent edition.  
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