



SPECIALIZED CARE FOR CHILDREN

How We Help

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) partners with Illinois families and communities to help children and youth with special health-care needs connect to services and resources. We guide families through their child's journey with a medical condition and work with doctors, schools and community groups to create a seamless support system. We assess a child's medical, social, behavioral, educational and financial needs and develop a personalized plan of care. This process is called care coordination and is **FREE**, regardless of a family's income level.

Our care coordination is tailored to each family and focused on their specific goals. It can include:

- Accessing diagnostic testing
- Finding specialized medical care
- Helping families maximize their insurance and understand their coverage/benefits
- Communicating with doctors and specialists
- Attending school meetings and assisting with the IEP or 504 Plan process
- Coordinating transportation for appointments
- Applying for grants to fund therapies, equipment or other needs
- Linking families with local charities, programs and resources
- Facilitating equipment orders
- Assisting with the application for state benefit programs, such as SSI, Illinois Link card and WIC
- Connecting families for parent-to-parent support
- Preparing for the transition to adulthood

Financial Assistance Available - We can also help pay for eligible medical expenses, such as equipment, therapies, supplies and medical services, when families meet income guidelines.

Our Impact

Our care coordination makes it possible for families to:

- Feel more confident and organized in the care of their child.
- Understand and stay at the center of decisions about their child's care.
- Develop a stronger partnership with their child's doctors and specialists.
- Express their worries and concerns and address them productively.
- Effectively navigate the maze of resources and insurance coverage/benefits.
- Support and achieve their child's educational and vocational goals.

See Other Side for More Information

WHO WE SERVE

DSCC serves Illinois families with children up to age 21 who have or are suspected of having an eligible medical condition. Eligible conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Cardiac impairments
- Cystic fibrosis
- Eye impairments (cataract, glaucoma, strabismus)
- External body impairments (cleft lip and palate, craniofacial anomalies)
- Hearing impairments
- Hemophilia
- Inborn errors of metabolism (phenylketonuria or PKU)
- Nervous system impairments (cerebral palsy, seizures, etc.)
- Orthopedic impairments
- Speech impairments (dysarthria, vocal cord paralysis)
- Urinary system impairments

We also serve families who care for children and youth who require in-home shift nursing through the Home Care Program. DSCC operates the Home Care Program on behalf of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This program helps youth remain in their family home rather than a hospital or skilled nursing facility. Many eligible youth are also medically fragile and dependent on technology - such as on ventilators, tracheostomies and gastrostomy tubes - for their well-being.

Contact us at:
(800) 322-3722
dsccl.uic.edu



WHO WE ARE

The University of Illinois at Chicago's Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is a statewide program that serves children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families. Each state receives federal funds to improve the health of children and youth with special healthcare needs. DSCC has been the designated program for Illinois since 1937.

We have 11 regional offices throughout the state that help Illinois families in their local communities. Our staff includes social workers, nurses, speech pathologists, audiologists and other team members who are trained to partner with families to help them identify needs and connect them to the specialty care and resources they need for their child to reach their full potential.

"Any time I have a problem, I contact DSCC. If I can't figure it out, they help me figure out a solution, so I'm thankful I have somebody to turn to."

— Andrea Souza, parent

