



Division of Specialized Care for Children

2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity for Caregiver Training

Introduction:

University of Illinois at Chicago – Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC) is seeking responses from interested entities looking to provide training for home nurses and/or parent/family caregivers who provide care for individuals with medical complexity. Interested proposals should be submitted by April 1, 2025. Selections for funding will be based on alignment with the considerations and deliverables listed below.

Goals:

The primary goal of the training is to improve the skill and comfort level of home nurses and/or family caregivers of individuals with medical complexity across Illinois.

Background and Considerations:

In 2021 as part of the American Rescue Plan Act states were notified of the opportunity for a temporary increase in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP). The additional funding, per direction of Federal CMS, is to be used for efforts to enhance, expand, or strengthen Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver services. Recently, UIC-DSCC was made aware that use of these funds could be extended through March 31, 2026. UIC-DSCC is the operating agency for the Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver, a Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver. The individuals enrolled in the Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver are in the DSCC Home Care Program. DSCC and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS), the state of Illinois' Title XIX Medicaid Agency, partnered together to develop five initiatives as part of the FMAP opportunity to improve, expand, and strengthen services for the medically complex population served by the DSCC Home Care Program. One of the FMAP initiatives for this medically complex population involves support of training as a mechanism to help improve the quality of care in the home and community setting.

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Please Submit Response by April 1, 2025

A sizable amount of the care required by individuals in the Medically Fragile Technology Dependent Waiver involve clinical skills above and beyond that which is taught in nursing programs. The home nursing agencies provide some training for nurses prior to beginning in the home setting. Opportunities for refresher trainings are minimal.

There are some medical providers who serve this patient population who will assist with training home nurses, but this varies by locations of the state. There is a need for additional opportunities to help develop the skill set of nurses interested in serving this patient population. These additional opportunities should consider locations of the state regarding accessibility to training, the ability to refer back to trainings (such as online), use of training methods such as simulation, and the need to assist with the cost of the home nurse attending the training.

Typically, family caregivers are trained on the cares of their child by the hospital team prior to discharge home. Additional family members who are willing to become a trained caregiver to assist with the care of a child, are often trained by someone from the home nursing agency working with a family. Families rarely have the opportunity to receive refresher training or to practice various care scenarios such as emergencies. There is a need for additional training opportunities to help support family caregivers.

These additional opportunities should include locations throughout the state where accessibility to training is limited, convenient for the family to attend the training, free of cost to the family member, and incorporate various learning methods/formats.

Funding through FMAP is available only for a limited time (through March of 2026). DSCC is also working to help expand availability of caregivers for this population. Additional consideration will be given to opportunities presented that continue beyond end of the additional FMAP and to those who creatively address the statewide need for these additional opportunities

Requested Deliverables:

- Monthly or, at a minimum, quarterly progress report to include:
 - # of home nurses who were able to participate in trainings during the quarter
 - # of family/other caregivers who were able to participate in trainings during the quarter
- Pre and post assessment to measure improvement in skill and comfort level

Please Submit Response by April 1, 2025



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Electronic Responses should be sent to dsc@uic.edu and please include
the following as the Subject Title:

“Funding Opportunity for Caregiver Training”

Please also include the following information on your submission:

- Proposal document describing ability to meet goals, considerations, and deliverables
- Company Name
- Contact Person
- Contact Person Email
- Contact Person Phone