

Child Service Coordination

OVERVIEW

What is it?

Child Service Coordination provides services to families to help access needed preventive, specialized and support services, and assist parents in coordinating care for their families.

Who is it for?

Services are available to certain children from birth to five years old, if the child or family has certain medicaid developmental or social/emotional needs.

Where are applications taken?

The Health Department or area Mental Health, Developmental Disability, and Substance Abuse Services agency (MH/DD/SAS) must obtain a psycho-social certification form to document need.

INTRODUCTION

The Child Service Coordination program works with families with young children who have certain medical, developmental, or social/emotional needs. Families are assigned a care coordinator helps them to identify their strengths and outstanding needs. Special emphasis is placed on helping families obtain preventive, specialty and support services. The goal is for families to recognize what community resources they desire and how to utilize them in a way that best meets their family's unique situation.

BENEFITS/ SERVICES

Local Health Departments and area MH/DD/SAS agencies provide child service coordination. If more than one agency provides care coordination, the family can choose which agency with which to work. Families also are supposed to be given some choice of care coordinators. The role of the child service coordinator varies according to the needs of the family. Some of the activities that may be provided include:

- Providing families information about other programs and services,
- Assisting in the completion of application forms,
- Monitoring children's development,
- Strengthening parent-child interactions,
- Teaching and encouraging family advocacy,
- Fostering family self-sufficiency, and
- Home visits.

An individualized service plan will be developed for each family. Follow-up visits and contacts are required at least quarterly, but may be provided more often if needed.

APPLICATIONS	Children may be identified and referred to the Health Departments for child service coordination services by newborn nurseries, physicians, parents or other community agencies. A certification form is required to show medical or psycho-social need.
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	<p>To be eligible, a child must be less than five years of age, a resident of North Carolina and have certain medical or psycho-social needs. A certification form with 30 medical and psycho-social indicators must be completed by the local Health Department or area MH/DD/SAS program. Children who meet the eligibility requirements for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (either the Infants and Toddlers or Preschool programs), receive child service coordination services as an entitlement under that law. There are no financial eligibility requirements.</p> <p>Children birth through age two</p> <p>To be eligible, the child must be at risk of developmental delay, chronic illness or social/emotional disorder.</p> <p>Children ages three to five</p> <p>Children are eligible if they have diagnosed conditions or are determined to be at high-risk of having developmental, medical, environmental, or social/emotional disorders.</p>
NUMBERS SERVED	The program serves about 50,000 children in North Carolina on an annualized basis.
APPEAL RIGHTS	There are no formal appeal rights in this program. However, a family who is dissatisfied with the operation of the program may informally file a grievance through the county Health Department in which the child lives, or the Children and Youth Branch of the Women's and Children's Health Section within the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Children and their families who receive child service coordination as an entitlement under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) have access to formal grievance procedures.
FINANCING	<p>The program receives funds from Medicaid and from the state directly for non-Medicaid eligible children. In SFY 1997/98, the program received the following funds:</p> <p>Medicaid: \$13.4 million from Medicaid receipts State: \$ 4.2 million (for non-Medicaid eligible children)</p>
ADMINISTRATION	There are two agencies within the US Department of Health and Human Services involved in administering the program: the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which oversees the Medicaid program, and the Maternal and Health Bureau

of the Public Health Service. The program is administered on the state level by the Children and Youth Branch, Women's and Children's Health Section within the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and at the local level through county or district Health Departments and area Mental Health, Developmental Disability and Substance Abuse Service agencies.

SOURCES OF LAW Federal law: 20 USC 1400 et. seq., PL 105-17 (IDEA)

FOR MORE INFORMATION Children and Youth Branch
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