

# Chester County Resource Guide

## Children and youth with special healthcare needs and their families

The Special Kids Network Helpline – 1-800-986-4550

- Advocacy for special healthcare needs
  - [The Arc of Pennsylvania](#) [Website link]  
The largest advocacy organization in the United States for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities containing 34 local chapters serving 56 counties across Pennsylvania.
  - [Chester County, Pennsylvania; Resources for Children with Special Needs](#)  
Chester County, PA Website
    - [Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania](#) Harrisburg: 717-236-8110  
Philadelphia: 215-238-8070; Pittsburgh: 412-391-5225  
Advocates for human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.
    - [ARC of Chester County](#) 610-696-8090  
Provider of services to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families.
    - [Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.](#) 215-587-3350, Wed. 9:30am-3:30pm  
Free high-quality legal services to low-income people with physical disabilities and to the deaf and hard of hearing in Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties.
    - [Legal Aid of Southeastern PA](#) 1-877-429-5994  
Legal representation to low-income and vulnerable people in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery County.
    - [The Education Law Center](#) Philadelphia: 215-772-3125; Pittsburgh: 412-258-2120  
The only statewide legal advocacy group whose mission is to ensure that all of Pennsylvania's children have access to quality public schools, including the poor, children of color, children with disabilities, children in foster care, English Language learners, and other vulnerable children.
  - [Juvenile Law Center](#) [Select 'Chester' County then 'Advocacy and Legal Services']  
Advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy. 1-888-864-6393
    - [Chester County Department of Community Development](#) 610-344-6900  
Access to services related to Workforce Investment, Act Programs, Joint Job Initiatives, Housing, Homeless Assistance, Community Services, Transportation Services, Economic Development, Fair Housing, Community Development, and Funding Opportunities.
    - [Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service](#) 1-800-932-0311  
Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyer Referral Service matches clients to a Pennsylvania lawyer in a specific area of law.
    - [Office Of Vocational Rehabilitation](#) 1-800-541-0721 or 814-871-4551  
OVR provides assistance with obtaining and maintaining employment to individuals with disabilities.
    - [Community Impact Legal Services](#) 1-888-275-8843  
Community Impact Legal Services provides free civil legal services to financially eligible individuals and groups who need assistance with consumer and housing matters.

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- [Special Kids Network](#) 1-800-986-4550  
Statewide referral service designed to serve families of children with chronic health of disabling conditions through information and service coordination.
- [Disability Rights Network Of Pennsylvania](#) Harrisburg: 717-236-8110  
Philadelphia: 215-238-8070, Pittsburgh: 412-391-5225  
Provide legal consultation and representation for individuals with disabilities and their families who are facing discrimination on the basis of disability and access to needed services along with providing information, referral and technical assistance to Pennsylvania residents with disability issues.
- [Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network](#) 1-800-692-7443  
The Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network provides information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide.
- [PA Client Assistance Program](#) 888-745-2357 or 800-323-6060  
PA's Client Assistance Program is an advocacy program for people with disabilities seeking services in employment and housing.
- [The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights](#) 215-731-1447 or 866-LGBT-LAW  
The Center advocates equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians through direct legal services, education and policy reform.
- [Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Helpline](#) 888-843-4564  
The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Hotline provides telephone and email peer counseling, as well as factual information and local resources for cities and towns across the United States.
- [Kaleidoscope Family Solutions Inc.](#) Autism, IDD & Behavioral Team 877-384-1729;  
Kaleidoscope Family Services (KFS) is School Division: 800-908-0546  
a specialized provider of clinical and therapeutic services directly to individuals as well as education-system staffing services. Services are delivered through its specialty division outlined below.
  - KFS Behavioral Therapeutic Services
  - KFS Autism Services
  - KFS Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Services
  - KFS School Staffing Services
  - KFS Training Services
- [Kids as Self Advocates](#) [Website]  
[Family Voices](#) project funded by the [U.S. Maternal and Child Health Bureau](#)
- [Pennsylvania Elks Home Service Program](#) [See phone numbers below]  
If referral is for a child under 21 please call 1-800-986-4550 if over 21 please call Pat O'Connor at 814-781-7860 or Margie Wood at 724-225-1395. Providing support and advocacy services to individuals who have a developmental disability.
- [Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership Center \(PEAL\)](#) 412-281-4404  
PEAL is an organization of parents of children with special health care needs and disabilities reach out to assist families of children with disabilities or special health care needs, professional and other who assist children with disabilities or special health care needs and children, youth and young adults with disabilities or special health care needs ages 0-26.

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- [Special Resources for Special Needs Children & Families in Chester County, PA](#)  
[Select 'Find a Program']
  - Parents Involved Network of Chester County 610-998-9390  
A support/advocacy, information and referral resource for families of children and adolescents who have emotional and behavioral disorders.
- Assistive Technology
  - [Caroline's Cart](#) Customer Service: 828-464-7388  
Grocery Cart designed for families with older children or adults with physical special needs. See website for store locations.
  - [Chester County Intermediate Unit Assistive Technology Services](#) [Web link]  
Assistive Technology services may be considered for any student who has an Individualized Education Program or has a Section 504 service agreement.
  - [Pennsylvania Assistive Technology Foundation](#) [Webpage Resource] 888-744-1938  
Foundation's mission is to provide financing opportunities to people with disabilities and older Pennsylvanians helping them to acquire the assistive technology devices and services that improve the quality of their lives.
- Counseling for special healthcare needs
  - [The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) online provider locator and telephone hotline](#) 1-800-662-4357  
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) offers a Behavioral Health Treatment Locator through which the user can search for a provider by address or zip code. The agency also offers a National Helpline which provides free and confidential information in English and Spanish for individuals and family members facing substance abuse and mental health issues. The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at 1-800-662-HELP (4357) or 1-800-487-4889 (TDD).
  - [Child Guidance Resource Centers](#) 484-454-8700  
Provides high quality, community-based therapeutic, supportive, and preventive behavioral healthcare services for children, adolescents, and families with mental health, developmental disability, and residential needs.
  - [Family Service of Chester County](#) 610-696-4900  
Offers counseling to people of all income levels and operate programs to address some of the community's most pressing issues.
- Day Care
  - [Chester County, PA; Resources for Children with Special Needs](#)  
Chester County's Website
    - [Lauren's House](#) Coatesville: 877-589-0854  
Health care services for medically complex, technology-dependent and behaviorally challenged children.
  - [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#) 1-800-692-7462  
Child Care and Early Learning services.
    - [Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care](#) 412-261-2273  
If your household income is no more than twice of the FPIG and your child is 13 or younger and you are a working parent or you are going to school.
    - [Pre-school Programs](#) 1-866-214-5437  
if your household income is no more than the FPIG and your child is five years old or younger.

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- [Online Child Care Provider Search](#) Website address  
The search will help you locate a child care provider that meets your needs and offer information on Early Learning programs. The Online Child Care Provider Search offers a portion of the wide spectrum of child care services offered by Child Care Information Services (CCIS) agencies. For additional assistance in locating a child care arrangement, [contact your local CCIS](#).
- Early Intervention
  - [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Early Intervention Services Website](#)  
While all children grow and develop in unique ways, some children experience delays in their development. Children with developmental delays and disabilities benefit from the Pennsylvania Early Intervention program, a state supported network of parents, service practitioners, and others which builds upon the natural learning opportunities that occur within the daily routines of a child and their family.
- Health Insurance
  - [CHIP](#) [Web Page link] 1-800-986-KIDS (5437)  
Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program. Covers all uninsured PA kids under 19.
  - [Community Volunteers in Medicine](#) 610-836-5990  
Free Medical, Dental, and Wellness services to eligible uninsured families.
  - [COMPASS](#) [PA Dept. of Human Services benefits online application Web Page link]  
[Select Apply for Any Benefits link to begin.]
  - Help with Medicare
    - [APPRISE](#) 1-800-783-7067  
A free health insurance counseling service for individuals 60 and over.
    - [Chester County Area Agency on Aging, APPRISE](#) 610-344-5004
    - [Medicare Part D](#) [Website link]  
Information about the Part D prescription drug benefit available to individuals enrolled in Medicare.
  - [HealthCare.gov](#) [Federal Health Insurance Enrollment Website] 1-800-318-2596
  - [Medical Assistance \(MA\)](#) [PA Department of Human Services Web link]  
Health care services for eligible individuals.
  - Pregnancy Insurance
    - [Chester County Hospital, OB/GYN Clinic](#)  
Hospital-based prenatal care to uninsured women in Chester County.
    - [Presumptive Eligibility](#) [Eligible uninsured pregnant woman should register with Dept. of Human Services, COMPASS and Medical Assistance (MA).] Presumptive Eligibility (PE) provides insurance coverage for pregnant woman who have applied for MA but are still under review.
    - [Maternity Insurance.org](#) [Website link]
    - [Pennsylvania-Health-Coverage.com](#) [Website link] 1-866-589-6215  
Compare affordable maternity health insurance options.

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- Housing
  - [Directory of Apartment Complexes for Senior Citizens and Younger People with Disabilities in Chester County, PA 2014](#) [Website link]
  - [Housing Authority of the County of Chester](#) 610-436-9200
  - [Juvenile Law Center](#) [Chester County]
    - [HUD](#) Philadelphia: 215-656-0500  
HUD is a federal program that provides housing support for individuals in need such as rental programs (including Section 8) and home ownership assistance programs.
    - [Northwest Human Services](#) 1-888-647-0020  
NHS provides residential living options, case/care management, and therapeutic services for individuals with disabilities.
    - [Elwyn](#) 610-891-2000  
Elwyn provides information and referral services in regards to residential services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties in Pennsylvania. Also provide work opportunities and adult day programs for people with disabilities.
    - [Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity at HUD](#) 1-800-799-2085  
Hotline service for individuals to report incidences of housing discrimination.
    - [PathStone, Inc.](#) Kennett Square: 610-925-5600  
PathStone provides emergency shelter services to disadvantaged individuals and families along with food, first month rental assistance, rent in arrears assistance, mortgage assistance and utilities in arrears assistance (one-time only assistance).
    - [Chester County Department of Community Development](#) 610-344-6900  
Provides access to services related to Workforce Investment, Act Programs, Joint Job Initiatives, Housing, Homeless Assistance, Community Services, Transportation Services, Economic Development, Fair Housing, Community Development, and Funding Opportunities.
    - [Domestic Violence Center Of Chester County](#) 1-888-711-6270  
Domestic Violence Center offers emergency domestic violence shelter, counseling for domestic violence victims, legal advocacy and counseling
    - [Salvation Army: West Chester](#) 610-696-8746  
Salvation Army provides emergency shelter, food and financial assistance to disadvantaged individuals and families
    - [Safe Harbor of Chester County](#) 610-692-6550  
Emergency shelter for homeless men and women who struggles with addictions or mental health issues along with clothing, food and personal needs. Safe Harbor also provides Community Hot Lunch Program that is open weekdays to all low income men, women and children in the West Chester area.
    - [St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter](#) 610-933-3097  
Temporary shelter to families who find themselves homeless along with meals, case management, counseling and spiritual support, information and referrals.

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- [Special Needs Registry](#) [Website link]  
The Registry is a planning tool to allow individuals with special needs the opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies, so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergencies. The Registry is a cooperative effort between Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery Counties, brought to you by the South-eastern Pennsylvania Regional Task Force.
- Health Waiver Programs
  - **Medicaid Waivers for Children under 21:**
    - [Attendant Care/Act 150](#) Long-Term Living Helpline, 1-800-753-8827  
Enables individuals with a physical disability, ages 18-59, who are mentally alert to continue to live in their homes with support and services.
    - Community Services Program for Persons with Physical Disabilities/[OBRA Waiver](#)  
Long-Term Living Helpline, 1-800-753-8827  
Provides services to people 18 or older with severe developmental and physical disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy, or similar conditions (onset prior to age 22).
    - [Consolidated Waiver for Individuals with Mental Retardation](#)  
Provides services to eligible people age three or older with mental retardation so that they can remain in the community.
    - [Person/Family Directed Support Waiver](#)  
Provides services to eligible people age three or older with mental retardation so that they can remain in the community.
    - Community Services Program for Persons with Physical Disabilities/[Independence Waiver](#)  
Long-Term Living Helpline, 1-800-753-8827  
Provides services to individuals 18 and older with severe physical disabilities to allow them to live in the community and remain as independent as possible.
    - [Infant, Toddlers, and Families Waiver](#) 717-346-1119  
Supports Early Intervention services to children up to age three who would otherwise require the level of care provided in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Mental Retardation of Other Related Conditions.
- Respite Care
  - [ARCH National Respite Network](#) [Website]  
for help with the Respite Locator Service please contact Mike Mathers at: [mmathers@chtop.org](mailto:mmathers@chtop.org) or by phone at 1-919-490-5577.  
The mission of the ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center is to assist and promote the development of quality respite and crisis care programs, to help families locate respite and crisis care services in their communities, and to serve as a strong voice for respite in all forums.
  - [The Cooperative Provider Service Network](#) 610-453-5005  
Qualified Care Services for Individuals with Autism & other Special Needs
- Special Education
  - [PA Bureau of Special Education Consult Line](#) 1-800-879-2301  
Help for families and advocates of children with special needs can be obtained by calling the Consult Line or with the on-line request form available at: <http://odr-pa.org/contact-consultline/>

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- [Intermediate Units in PA](#) [Website Link]  
Intermediate Units in Pennsylvania are part of the governance structure of public education and are located in the middle between the state education agency and the local school districts. They provide specialized services to local school districts that can be operated more effectively and efficiently on a regional basis
- Support Groups
  - [Chester County, Pennsylvania; Resources for Children with Special Needs](#)  
Chester County, PA Website
    - [La Comunidad Hispana](#) 610-444-7550 X 242  
health, social, and adult educational services designed to help immigrant and low income residents.
  - [Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania](#) [Select 'P2P Supports Groups' link]  
Linking families of children and adults with disabilities 1-888-727-2706  
or special needs.
  - [PA Families Incorporated](#) [info@pafamiliesinc.org](mailto:info@pafamiliesinc.org) 1-800-947-4941  
Statewide network providing support to families raising children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and special needs, as well as serving as an advocate in the different child serving systems.  
Updated regularly.  
[Chester County](#) [Select 'Resources' link on main page then select desired County.]

## Women who are or who might be pregnant

The Healthy Baby Information Helpline – 1-800-986-2229

- Baby Supplies
  - [Birthright International, Coatesville and West Chester, PA Chapter](#)  
1-800-550-4900  
Support for women facing unplanned pregnancies.
- Breastfeeding Guides
  - [Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Referral Guide](#)  
Arranged by County
  - [Womenshealth.gov Breastfeeding Challenges Guide](#)  
Information regarding common breastfeeding challenges  
Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services  
800-994-9662
- Car Seats
  - Car Seat Safety  
The PA Child Passenger Protection Act requires that all drivers transporting children ages birth – four years use an approved child safety seat. Children ages four to eight must wear a seat belt and be in a booster seat. Children with medical conditions or disabilities may require special considerations or adaptations for transportation safety.
    - [The PA Traffic Injury Prevention Project](#)  
Car Seat Loan Program by County - Information Hotline – 800-CAR-BELT  
Training for school districts and companies 412-885-0266  
on transporting children with special needs.

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- [National Highway Safety Transportation Administration](#) – 888-327-4236  
Information on car seat safety and installation inspection.
- National Easter Seal Society [phone listing] 800-221-6827  
Referrals and information about car seats.
- Counseling
  - [Birthright of West Chester](#) 610-436-0773  
Free pregnancy testing, counseling, and other services
  - [Nurse-Family Partnership](#) [select 'Find a Local Agency' for access to County list]  
Chester County – 610-344-6459  
A free, voluntary program that partners first-time moms with nurse home visitors. When you enroll in the program, a special trained nurse will visit you throughout your pregnancy and until your baby turns two years old. During these visits, your caring nurse will offer the knowledge and support you need to confidently create a better life for your baby and yourself.
- CHIP
  - [PA Children's Health Insurance Program](#) Call automated phone line at 800-986-KIDS (5437) and a CHIP representative will return your call within two business days.  
Pennsylvania's CHIP program puts health coverage within reach for all uninsured kids and teens who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance.
- Pregnancy Insurance
  - Presumptive Eligibility, MA  
Presumptive Eligibility is a temporary program of health insurance coverage for pregnant women who are applying for Medical Assistance.
    - PA Dept. of Human Services Benefits Helpline 1-800-692-7462
    - [PA Dept. of Human Services County Assistance Office Contact Information](#)
  - [COMPASS](#) (PA Dept. of Human Services) [Website]  
Online application for Pennsylvanians to apply for many health and human service programs. Click on the 'Apply Now' button to begin or use links on right side for further assistance.
- [text4baby](#) Registration is free on the text4baby.org website.  
Free text messages to keep you and your baby healthy throughout your pregnancy and the baby's first year.
- [WIC](#) 800-842-9467  
Through WIC, pregnant women, mothers, and caregivers of infants and young children learn about good nutrition to keep themselves and their families healthy. WIC provides nutrition service, breastfeeding support, health care and social service referrals, and healthy foods to over 250,000 participants every month in PA.

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## Lead health information for parents, homeowners, contractors, and healthcare professionals

The Lead Information Helpline - 1-800-440-5323

- [Chester County Lead Hazard Control Program](#)  
Environmental Health Specialist  
Chester County Health Department  
601 Westtown Rd.  
Suite 288, PO Box 2747  
West Chester PA 19380  
Phone: (610) 344-6725
  
- [Elevated Lead Blood Level Case Management Guidelines](#) [CDC Web Page]  
Recommendations from the CDC Advisory Committee on Childhood Lead  
Poisoning Prevention
  
- [Environmental Protection Agency, Lead](#) [EPA Web Page]  
Provides many useful links for families including:  
[Lead Hotline – National Lead Information Center link](#) (800) 424-5323
  
- [PA Lead and Healthy Homes Program](#) [Website link] (717) 772-2762  
The Pennsylvania Lead and Healthy Homes Program (LHHP) seeks to  
create safe and healthy housing by addressing environmental health and safety  
issues in homes.
  
- Certified Contractors
  - Locating EPA Certified Lead Contractors and technicians
    - [EPA.gov - Lead](#)
    - [PA Labor and Industry](#)  
Link to list of accredited trainers and certified contracting firms.
  - Information for Contractors
    - [EPA - Lead](#)  
Renovate Right for Contractors and Trainers
    - [PA Labor and Industry](#)  
Certification and Other Requirements for Lead Occupations
    - [OSHA](#)  
For information about regulations regarding work on facilities  
which are non-residential, contractors should contact the appropriate  
Occupational Safety & Health Administration Pennsylvania area office.
  
- Property Managers
  - [HUD – Lead Disclosure Rule](#)  
Congress passed the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of  
1992, also known as Title X, to protect families from exposure to lead from paint,  
dust, and soil. Section 1018 of this law directed HUD and EPA to require the

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disclosure of known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before the sale or lease of most housing built before 1978.

If you did not receive the Disclosure of Information on Lead-Based Paint and/or Lead-Based Paint Hazards form when you bought or leased pre-1978 housing, contact 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).

## Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury and their families

The Head Injury Information Helpline – 866-412-4755

- [Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania](#) 1-800-444-6443  
Our mission: to prevent brain injury and improve the quality of life for people who have experienced brain injury and their family members through support, education, advocacy, and research.
  
- PA Department of Health Head Injury Program
  - [Head Injury Program](#) 866-412-4755  
The goal of the program is to help individuals with a traumatic brain injury live independently in their homes and communities.
  
- Waiver Programs
  - [Independent Enrollment Broker](#) 788-550-4227  
Office of Long-Term Living launched the PA Independent Enrollment Broker, a contracted statewide entity, to facilitate and streamline the eligibility/enrollment process for applicants seeking services for several PA waivers/programs.
  - [COMMCARE Waiver](#) 1-800-753-8827  
A Home and Community-Based Services Waiver for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI).
  - [OBRA Waiver](#) 1-800-753-8827  
Home and Community based Waiver program that may help if you have a developmental physical disability to allow you to live in the community and remain as independent as possible.
  
- Other Information
  - [Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania](#) [info@abin-pa.org](mailto:info@abin-pa.org), 1-800-516-8052  
Nonprofit organization of brain injury survivors, family members, and friends dedicated to increasing public awareness about acquired brain injury, and to providing support, education, information, advocacy, and other services for individuals with acquired brain injury and their families.
  - [Brainline.org](#) 703-998-2020  
Preventing, treating, and living with traumatic brain injury (TBI).

## Immunizations/Vaccinations

- [Chester County Health Department, Maternal & Child Health](#)

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## Childhood Immunizations

- PA Department of Health Division of Immunizations
  - [Division of Immunizations](#) 717-787-5681
  - [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children Program](#) 888-646-6864  
Free vaccines for uninsured children 877-724-3258

## Legal advocacy for the disabled in Pennsylvania

[Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania](#) Harrisburg 1-800-692-7443  
717-236-8110  
717-346-0239 [TDD]  
Philadelphia 215-238-8070  
Pittsburgh 412-391-5225

The mission of the Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania is to advance, protect, and advocate for the human, civil, and legal rights of Pennsylvanians with disabilities.

[PA Health Law Project](#) 1-800-274-3258  
Helping People in Need get the Health Care they deserve.  
Advocacy on access to health care for low-income consumers, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

## Transportation Assistance for the Disabled

- **Pennsylvania Care Planning Council** Website address  
[Community Disability, Assistive Technology & Transportation Service](#)
- [PA Dept. of Human Services Medical Assistance Transportation Program](#) 610-594-3911  
877-873-8415