

Columbia 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 citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families containing 34 local chapters serving 56 counties across Pennsylvania.
 - [Juvenile Law Center](#) [Select Columbia County then 'Advocacy and Legal Services'.]
Advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy. 1-888-864-6393
 - [Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network](#) 1-800-692-7443
The Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network provides information on disability programs and services in communities nationwide.
 - [Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania](#) Harrisburg: 717-236-8110 or Philadelphia: 215-238-8070
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.
 - [North Penn](#) 570-784-8760
Provides legal representation to low-income people. Offers assistance with the following civil legal problems: consumer, housing, employment, education, utility, family, public benefits, elderly, and domestic violence.
 - [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
 - [Special Kids Network](#) 800-986-4550
Statewide referral service designed to serve families of children with chronic health of disabling conditions through information and service coordination
 - [The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights](#) 866-LGBT-LAW
The Center advocates equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Pennsylvanians through direct legal services, education and policy reform.
 - [LGBT Youth in Crisis Hotline](#) 800-246-7743
Youth serving youth through age 25. Peer counseling, information, and local resources
 - [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.
 - [Suncom Industries](#) 570-473-8304
SUNCOM provides job placement and referral, job training, sheltered employment, and counseling services for individuals with disabilities.
 - [Pennsylvania Families Incorporated](#) [Website Link]
PFI is a resource database that that empowers PA families of children with special needs by linking them to support and information.

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- [Columbia County MH/MR/DS](#) 570-275-5422
The Home and Community Services Information Systems offers a directory of all of PA's county MH/MR/DS. The Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation/Mental Development administers services and programs for individuals with mental and developmental disabilities.
- [The Advocacy Alliance](#) [Website link]
Community-based supportive services for individuals with intellectual disabilities or mental illness.
- [Northwest Human Services](#) 1-888-647-0020
NHS provides residential living options, case/care management, and therapeutic services for individuals with disabilities.
- [Anthracite Region Center for Independent Living](#) 800-777-9906
ARCIL provides services for individuals with disabilities such as independent living skills training, attendant care services, transportation services, information and referral. The VITAL program (Vocational and Independence Training for Adult Life) helps high school students with disabilities learn skills necessary to make a successful transition from school to adult life.
- [Good Will Industries](#) [Website Link]
Good will Industries provides supported employment program for adults with disabilities.
- [United Disability Services](#) 570-320-0590
Services for individuals with disabilities including residential, vocational, and life skills services and adult enrichment programming.
- [Hope Enterprises](#) 888-850-0453
Services for individuals with developmental disabilities including supportive vocational programs, residential programs (including life sharing, group homes, and in-home supports), and adult day services.
- [AHEDD, Inc.](#) 570-622-9711
Customized employment for people with developmental disabilities. Also services for youth in their transition from school to careers & work.
- [CMSU Service System](#) 570-275-6080
Provides mental health and mental retardation services to the citizens of Columbia, Montour, Snyder and Union Counties, including residential, vocational, therapeutic, and day program services.
- [Center for Independent Living of North Central PA](#) 570-327-9070
CILNCP provides services for individuals with physical disabilities: independent living skills training, service coordination, peer support, attendant care services, advocacy, information and referral.
- [Center Susquehanna Sight Services](#) 570-286-1471
Provides services to people who are blind or visually impaired as well as provide prevention of blindness services.
- [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation](#) 1-800-541-0721
OVR provides assistance with obtaining and maintaining employment to individuals with disabilities.
- [Camp Victory](#) 570-458-6530
Camp Victories offers various camp programs for the physically and mentally disabled.

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- [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](#) Columbia 570-501-1005 ext. 506 Providing support and advocacy services to individuals who have a developmental disability.
- 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.
 - [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
- Day Care
 - [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#) 1-800-692-7462 Child Care and Early Learning services.
 - [Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care](#) 1-866-698-2247 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.
 - [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
 - [PA Department of Education Early Intervention Program](#) 1-800-692-7288.

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The Pennsylvania Early Intervention program provides support and services to families with children, from birth to age five, with developmental delays and disabilities.

- [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.
 - [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.
 - [Columbia County Area Agency on Aging, APPRISE](#) 800-598-5001
 - [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
 - [HealthChoices](#) [Website]
HealthChoices will provide low-income Pennsylvanians with the opportunity to purchase private health insurance at affordable rates through a network of eight insurance private insurers, offering three or more health insurance plan options per region. Coverage will begin Jan. 1, 2015. Apply online at www.COMPASS.state.pa.us and learn more at www.healthypa.com.
 - [Medical Assistance \(MA\)](#) [PA Department of Human Services Web link.]
Health care services for eligible individuals.
 - Pregnancy Insurance
 - [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.
 - [Resource Guide to Healthcare Options in Pennsylvania](#)
For Children, Adults, and Seniors
The Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, Pennsylvania State University

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- Housing
 - [Juvenile Law Center](#) [Columbia County.]
Advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy.
 - [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.
 - [Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity at HUD](#) 1-800-799-2085
Hotline service for individuals to report incidences of housing discrimination.
 - [Berwick Salvation Army](#) 570-579-1214
Housing, emergency food, shelter, clothing, counseling, help with utilities (when emergency), educational support. Community soup kitchen. This small community fund is available to families in crisis when no other resource is available.
 - [Women's Center](#) 570-752-4446
The Women's Center offers services for women and children who have been victims of domestic violence. Services include emergency shelter, information and referrals, counseling and advocacy.
 - [Hope Enterprises](#) 888-850-0435
Services for individuals with developmental disabilities including supportive vocational programs, residential programs (including life sharing, group homes, and in-home supports), and adult day services.
 - [Columbia County Human Services](#) 570-387-6501
Columbia County Human Services offers energy assistance funds, food pantry, meals on wheels, homemaker/non-medical personal care services, childcare services, homeless assistance program, Veterans affairs.
 - [Community Service Group](#) 717-285-7121
Services for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities and mental health diagnoses including residential services, employment services, adult day programs, outpatient treatment, peer support, and psychiatric rehabilitation. Residential services include Community Residential Rehabilitation, Enhanced Personal Care Home, Supported Housing and Long Term Structured Residence.
 - [Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment Authority](#) 570-784-9373
Public housing program that connects income-eligible individuals and families with public housing or section 8 vouchers.
 - [National Runaway Switchboard](#) 1-800-786-2929
Toll-free, nationwide hot-line for runaways and troubled youth. Provides information and referral for shelter, counseling, medical and legal services and transportation back home. The hot-line also provides a personal and confidential message relay service between runaways and their families.
- 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.

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- 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 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.

- 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/>
 - [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
 - [Berks County SPELL \(Supporting Parents of Exceptional Learners for Life\)](#) [Website Link]
Support group operated under the guidance of local advocates Michele Ford and Elizabeth Hemmings. SPELL was created to help parents gain information, resources, and support while assisting them in their journey of parenting exceptional children.

- Support Groups

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- [Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania](#) [Select 'P2P Supports Groups' link]
Linking families of children and adults with disabilities or special needs. 1-888-727-2706
- [PA Families Incorporated](#) 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.
 - [Columbia County](#) [Select 'Resources' link on main page then select desired County.]
 - Support groups/supports for parents who have children with any kind of behavioral challenges, developmental disabilities, social, emotional concerns or addictions.

Women who are or who might be pregnant

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

- Baby Supplies
 - Breastfeeding Guides If you need more information visit [Handouts for Parents](#) or call the Healthy Baby line at 800-986-BABY(2229).
 - [Pennsylvania Breastfeeding Referral Guide](#)
Arranged by County
 - [Womenshealth.gov Breastfeeding Challenges Guide](#) 800-994-9662
Information regarding common breastfeeding challenges
Office on Women's Health, US Department of Health and Human Services
 - 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.
 - [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.
 - [The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) 847-228-5005
Referrals and information about car seats.

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- Counseling
 - [Berks County Transition Coordinating Council](#) Website Link
Benefits Counseling resource to aid in the employment of people with disabilities in Berks County.
 - [Nurse-Family Partnership](#) [select 'Find a Local Agency' for access to County list]
Columbia County – 800-349-4702
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 (PE), 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.
 - [PAHealthOptions.com \(PA Dept. of Insurance\)](#) 1-877-881-6388
The Pennsylvania Insurance Department's Unbiased Guide to Understanding Health Insurance.

- [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](#) 800-942-9467
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

- [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. Program contact list provided by County.
- 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 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).

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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, 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

- 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

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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](#) 1-866-936-6800

The Medical Assistance Transportation Program, also known as MATP, provides transportation to medical appointments for Medical Assistance recipients who do not have transportation available to them. The individual's county of residence will provide the type of transportation that is the least expensive while still meeting their needs.

Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance and Job Training for the Disabled

- [Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry Vocational Rehabilitation Services](#) Website
The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. Services are provided on an individualized basis.
 - [OVR Office Directory](#) - Arranged by District Office and by Counties Served