

Forest 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 'Forest' County then 'Advocacy and Legal Services'.]
Advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy. 1-888-864-6393
 - [Community Resources for Independence, Inc.](#) 1-800-530-5541
Offers independent living services to people with disabilities along with accessibility education, waiver information, independent living services, attendant care service coordination, assisting technology, and information and referral.
 - [Voices for Independence](#) 1-866-407-0064
Voices for Independence provides services for individuals with physical disabilities such as independent living skills training, personal care services, housing services, peer support, information and referral.
 - [Northwestern Legal Services](#) 800-756-5703
Legal services for low income persons.
 - [Office of Vocational Rehabilitation](#) 1-800-541-0721
OVR provides assistance with obtaining and maintaining employment to individuals with disabilities.
 - [Special Kids Network](#) 1-866-986-4550
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](#) 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](#) 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.

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- [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.
- [Pennsylvania Families Incorporated](#) [Website Link]
PFI is a resource database that empowers PA families of children with special needs by linking them to support and information.
- [Bureau of Blindness and Visual Services](#) Erie: 814-871-4401
Provides services to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired in areas of specialized children services, finding employment, starting a business, gaining independent living skills.
- [Bureau of Autism Services](#) 866-539-7689
Bureau of Autism Services is a department within the Department of Public Welfare specifically addressing the needs, issues and concerns of people with Autism Spectrum Disorders in Pennsylvania. BAS provides information on available services and waiver funding.
- [Forest County MH/MR/DS](#) 814-726-2100
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.
- [Northwest Human Services](#) 888-647-0020
NHS provides residential living options, case/care management, and therapeutic services for individuals with disabilities.
- [Good Will Industries](#) [Website Link]
Good will Industries provides supported employment program for adults with disabilities.
- [Lakeshore Community Services, Inc.](#) 814-723-4680
Services for individuals with mental illness including life skills training, in-home supports, community residential living, supported living, semi-independent living and case management.
- [Dickinson Center, Inc.](#) 814-776-2145
Provides behavioral health services including outpatient therapy, partial hospitalization programs, employment support services, case management services, and peer support. Also provide services for individuals with mental retardation including community living, supported employment, transitional work services, adult day services, and in-home supports.
- [Training Toward Self Reliance](#) 814-358-2472
TTSR provides residential and community services, adult training facility, educational services, therapeutic riding and respite services for adults with developmental disabilities and dually-diagnosed adults.
- [Venango Training and Development Center, Inc.](#) 814-676-5755
VTDC offers employment training, education, support and opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged individuals.
- [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

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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](#) Forest: 724-475-5018
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
 - [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).
- Day Care
 - [Pennsylvania Department of Human Services](#) 1-800-692-7462
Child Care and Early Learning services.
 - [Child Care Works Subsidized Child Care](#) 1-855-294-9015
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

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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
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.
 - [Forest County Area Agency on Aging, APPRISE](#) 800-281-6545
 - [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.

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- [Resource Guide to Healthcare Options in Pennsylvania](#)
For Children, Adults, and Seniors
The Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health, Pennsylvania State University
- Housing
 - [Juvenile Law Center](#) [Forest County.]
Advancing the rights and well-being of children in jeopardy.
 - [HUD](#) Pittsburgh: 412-644-6428
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](#) 888-647-0020
NHS provides residential living options, case/care management, and therapeutic services for individuals with disabilities.
 - [Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity at HUD](#) 800-799-2085
Hotline service for individuals to report incidences of housing discrimination.
 - [Warren-Forest Counties Economic Opportunity Council](#) 814-726-2400
WFCAA Provides services and programs related to child care, housing, and housing rehabilitation such as Employment and Training, Financial Self-Sufficiency, Homelessness Assistance and Prevention, Foreclosure Preventions and Homeownership, Utility Assistance and more.
 - [PPC Violence Free Network and Shelter](#) Oil City: 814-677-4005
Hotline: 800-243-4944
PPC offers services for victims of domestic violence such as Emergency shelter (offered only in Venango), counseling services, 24 hour hotline, and legal advocacy.
- 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.

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- [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
 - [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 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.
[Forest 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.

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- [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.

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
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- [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).

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.

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- Other Information
 - [Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania](http://www.abin-pa.org) 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](http://www.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](http://www.doh.pa.gov/DivisionofImmunizations) 717-787-5681
 - [Pennsylvania Vaccines for Children Program](http://www.pa.gov/Programs/PAVaccinesforChildren) 888-646-6864
Free vaccines for uninsured children 877-724-3258

Legal advocacy for the disabled in Pennsylvania

[Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania](http://www.drnpa.org)

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](http://www.pahealthlawproject.org)

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.

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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](#) 800-222-1706

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