

## How Title V supports: Children with Special Health Care Needs

Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) are those who have, or are at increased risk for, a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition, and who also require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally. According to the National Survey of Children's Health, as of 2020-2021, approximately 22.7% of children in Pennsylvania aged 0 to 17 are CSHCN. **Title V funds support more than 402,000 CSHCN annually, approximately 53% of all youth with special health care needs in the state.** Beginning in 2021, CSHCN health strategies will aim to advance Priority 3 and Priority 4 of the Title V Action Plan.

### PRIORITY 3

Improve mental health, behavioral health, and developmental outcomes for children and youth with and without special health care needs

### PRIORITY 4

Improve the percent of children and youth with special health care needs who receive care in a well-functioning system

*Addressing priority health needs with evidence-based strategies*



### Access to Services

The Autism Diagnostic Clinic (ADC) provides telehealth evaluations for child ages 18 months to three years. The ADC uses referrals from Early Intervention services to identify children with autism spectrum disorder and provide in-home evaluations. The ADC has significantly lowered the age of diagnosis and wait for evaluations in its services are. The Community-Based Services and Support (CBSS) program works to increase access to services within the sickle cell disease (SCD) community. The CBSS provides care coordination, cross-system collaboration, and community resource engagement to support the SCD community.



### Special Kids Network Helpline

The Special Kids Network phone line connects providers and families with CYSHCN to resources in their communities and can provide information on education, transportation, insurance, transition, assistive devices, and more. The toll-free number is 1-800-986-4550 and is available Monday through Friday from 8:30AM to 4:00PM.



### Support for Families at Home

Established by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in 2019, the Room2Breathe program utilizes community health workers to provide home-visiting services to families of children diagnosed with asthma. Services provided through the program include education, medication adherence, care coordination with primary care physicians, referrals to community resources, and environmental assessments to reduce in home triggers. Families also receive assistance with pest management services and referrals for other identified needs around the social determinants of health.



### Support for Youth and Systems Change

In partnership with Pa.'s Family to Family Health Information Center (the Parent Education Advocacy Leadership Center), Title V supports youth leadership development among youth with disabilities and special health care needs across the state. The goal of youth leadership institutes is to help participating youth become self-sufficient and learn how to self-advocate. Title V also supports the Family Impact Initiative (FII) through the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. FII is a partnership among the state and local health departments, local community partners, human service organizations and health care providers who serve CYSHCN, and families of CYSHCN as leaders improving the system of care for CYSHCN.



### Support for Children with Acquired Brain Injury

Title V supports students with traumatic or non-traumatic acquired brain injury with receiving support through the Title V-funded BrainSTEPS program. BrainSTEPS assists students with transition back to school post-injury and supports schools in the development and implementation of educational plans. Title V also provides brain injury education to students, parents, coaches, and staff through the Safety in Youth Sports Program and individuals working with youth within drug and alcohol programs through the Brain Injury and Opioid Program.



### Community to Home (C2H)

Community to Home is a home visiting program utilizing an evidence-based Community Health Worker model. The program focuses on rural, low-income families of CSHCN with a recent diagnosis as well as CSHCN who have recently moved to or within the state. The goal is to empower families, develop care management plans, and connect families to needed resources.



### Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Program

The FQHC Program is designed to improve systems of care for CSHCN within participating FQHC health systems. In partnership with the Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers, FQHCs are supported in implementing evidence-driven initiatives to target barriers and needs for CSHCN, which can then be operationalized across the FQHC system.

The Department of Health's Bureau of Family Health is the Title V Administrator in Pennsylvania.

For more information, e-mail [RA-DHPATITLEV@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHPATITLEV@pa.gov) or visit our website:

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Administrative/Pages/Title-V.aspx>

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