

Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH)

What is CMH?

CMH is a tax-supported program of the Ohio Department of Health that helps children with special health care needs and their families. The program assists families in obtaining services to diagnose a potential handicapping condition (The Diagnostic Program) and assists with ongoing services for children with an eligible medical handicap (The Treatment Program).

Who is it for?

For both the diagnostic and treatment programs, children must be under the age of 21, live in Ohio, be a permanent U.S. resident, and be under the care of a CMH-approved physician.

The Diagnostic Program assists families in obtaining an evaluation of a potentially handicapping condition regardless of the family's income.

The Treatment Program is for children who have been diagnosed as having an eligible medically handicapping condition. Families must meet financial eligibility guidelines.

Some examples of eligible conditions are:

Chronic Pulmonary Disease Diabetes Juvenile Arthritis
Cystic Fibrosis Cancer Cleft Lip/Palate
Cerebral Palsy Hemophilia Spina Bifida
Hearing Loss Heart Defects Seizure disorders

What services are available?

Examples of services that CMH assists with:

Office visits to physicians X-ray and lab Physical therapy
Prescription Medicines Dental Care Surgery
Hearing Aids Medical Supplies Hospitalization

Public Health Nursing Services including home visits, service coordination, health assessment and education, developmental screening, advocacy and referral to appropriate health care providers

Nutrition Services such as medical nutrition therapy including assessment, nutrition counseling, special formula assistance, follow-up and monitoring, and referrals to appropriate services

Are there any limits?

CMH requires that third party resources such as Medicaid or health insurance pay first. The bureau supplements insurance when families have inadequate coverage, such as exclusions for pre-existing conditions or large deductibles.

How do I apply?

Families or agencies may apply to CMH by contacting a public health nurse at their local health department, the child's physician or the CMH office at the Ohio Department of Health. Parents may call toll free to 1-800 755-GROW (4769)

For more information go to www.odh.ohio.gov

For assistance in Belmont County, call the CMH

nurses at the Belmont County Board of Health (740 695-1202 ext.29)