

# CSHCS Newsletter – October 2018



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

## WE MOVED!

Our offices have moved to 311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Our phone numbers have not changed. If walking in for assistance please go to the reception desk and let them know you would like to meet with Heather, Phyllis, or Brenda. They will let us know you are here, so we can meet you in the lobby then go to a meeting room to maintain your privacy.

### Lodging Reimbursement

Did you know that CSHCS will reimburse on lodging up to \$75 per night when travelled to a CSHCS approved provider? To take advantage of this benefit call Heather at 269-373-5015. You must call no later than the day of the appointment. CSHCS will not reimburse for past appointments.

Medicaid offers the same lodging reimbursement benefit, so families who have Medicaid coverage should contact their Medicaid Health Plan or call to speak Heather about reimbursement. Medicaid does need more time to process the request, so please call the health plan or case worker a few weeks in advance of the appointment date.

## Come get your Influenza Shot

The Influenza (flu) Vaccine is now available at Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department, and health officials are urging all residents to get vaccinated against the flu. Everyone is suitable for the vaccine, even those as young as six months old. The benefits include:

- Flu vaccine prevents millions of illnesses and flu-related doctor's visits each year.
- Vaccination helps protect women during and after pregnancy. It can also protect your baby after birth.
- Flu vaccine can be life-saving in children. The flu vaccination can significantly reduce a child's risk of dying from influenza.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, including those who are more vulnerable to the flu, like babies and young children, older people, and people with certain chronic health conditions.

Come by the Health & Community Services Department for the flu vaccinations at our office located at 311 East Alcott Street, Kalamazoo, on the following dates and times:

Monday, Tuesday\*, Wednesday, and Friday:

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (closed 12:00-1:00 p.m.)

Thursday:

10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. (closed 1:00-2:00 p.m.).

\*The third Tuesday of the month the clinic is closed from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



## Energy assistance available

As colder weather arrives, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is reminding low-income residents they can apply for emergency energy assistance either online or using paper applications. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, people can apply for energy assistance year-round. That's different than in recent years, when people were required to apply only during the designated energy crisis season, which was from Nov. 1 to May 31. Anyone with questions about energy assistance can visit [www.michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs) or contact your local MDHHS office.

## Trunk or Treat!

Please join the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat for Children with developmental intellectual disabilities on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 PM at the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment and Research located at 9616 Portage Road, Portage MI 49002. There will be face painting, balloon animals, a pumpkin walk, petting zoo, and of course candy!

## Sensory Sensitive Sundays

Chuck E. Cheese's will now be open 2 hours early on the first Sunday of every month, specifically for children with autism and other special needs. With reduced lighting and noise, food and games offered, and trained and caring staff. It's a safe and caring environment *where any kid can be a kid!*

## Parent Mentor Training

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is the statewide, parent-directed center that supports and connects Michigan families of children and youth with special health care needs. It provides family-centered leadership throughout Michigan's health care settings, and partner in the decision making process within the systems of care for children and youth with special health care needs.

The Family Center is excited to host a Parent Mentor Training in Grand Rapids, MI on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We would like to reach parents/caregivers who are experienced and may want to become a Mentor to support other parents. This training is open to all families who have a child with a medical, physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional condition. Registration can be completed at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/grand-rapids-parent-mentor-training-november-3-2018-tickets-50454562956?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>  
Please Contact Aleisha Leavitt by phone or email (Leavitta1@michigan.gov) with any questions.

## THREE & FOUR YEAR OLDS, THIS ONE IS FOR YOU!

It is that time of year- sign-up for great start and other pre-kindergarten programs! This is just the start of the most progressive educational and social development your child will experience.

### Requirements include:

- 3 years-old before December 1<sup>st</sup> for the three year old program
- 4 years-old before December 1<sup>st</sup> for the four year old program and Head Start.
- Have a copy of their birth certificate, proof of county residency, and verification of all family income for the past 12 months in access when filling out the application.

### Where to apply:

- Online: <http://kresa.org/Page/1368>
- Mail: Address and paper application online at above website.

### Questions?

- Call: 269-250-9333
- Email: [hsenroll@kresa.org](mailto:hsenroll@kresa.org)

For next month's Newsletter please go to "Hot Topics" as <http://www.kalamazoo.com/hcs/default.asp> or find it on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS/>. If you have questions or concerns please call the Family Phones Line at 1-800-359-3722 or the Kalamazoo CSHCS Program Representative, Heather, at 269-373-5015.

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.