

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

Newsletter – February 2021

CSHCS is a secondary insurance program designed to support children with eligible chronic health conditions and their families. CSHCS is also available for adults with cystic fibrosis and bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.



KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

Time to Get Your Flu Vaccination

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season, especially people at high risk. This year, more than ever, it is important to get vaccinated to decrease the risk of serious disease from influenza and avoid the possibility of being infected by both influenza and COVID-19 at the same time. Kalamazoo Health & Community Services is offering influenza vaccines. Call 269-373-5203 to schedule your appointment.



Children with Special Needs Fund

The Children with Special Needs Fund (CSNF) has announced special grant funding is available to assist with ceiling and stair lifts for children/youth with special health needs. Applications for ceiling and stair lifts received by **Sunday, February 28** will be reviewed in March, and applications received by **Tuesday, August 31** will be reviewed in September. To download an application, please visit www.michigan.gov/csnfund. Families can also call 517-241-7420 or email csnfund@michigan.gov to have one sent to them.

The CSNF also assists with partial or full payment for items such as wheelchair ramps, vehicle accessibility devices, transit options, therapeutic tricycles, air conditioners for certain medical conditions, and adaptive recreational equipment. Applications for these items are reviewed year-round. The same application and contact information provided above can be used to apply for these other items as well.

Food Resources

Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes (KLF) is doing Mobile Food Distributions **January 2021** through **June 2021**. Free groceries are distributed monthly throughout Kalamazoo County. No referral or appointment is needed. For a schedule of upcoming 2021 distribution dates and locations, please visit <https://kzoolf.org/mobile-food-initiative/>.

In addition to KLF's Mobile Food Distributions, you can get groceries two times per calendar month through the Grocery Pantry Program. To schedule a pantry visit, please call Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' call center at 269-343-3663.

There are many other food resources in our community. For a list, please visit: https://www.kresa.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=3091&dataid=3499&FileName=KalCounty_FoodPantries.pdf

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

COVID-19: Vaccination Information

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is actively working with our healthcare partners to vaccinate all those that are eligible to receive the vaccine as soon as possible. The vaccination is not available at the Health Department and is provided by appointment only at vaccination sites. Please do NOT come to the health department or any vaccination site without an appointment.

For the most up-to-date information visit: www.kalcounty.com/covid19 and www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. Please reserve phone calls for those who cannot easily access online information. The health department's COVID-19 Call Center is 269-373-5200.

It is important to continue the following practices to protect yourself, especially with new variants of the virus being found in our community:

1. **Wash your Hands Often**
2. **Avoid Close Contact (Social Distancing)**
3. **Wear a Cloth Face Covering**

Camp Scholarships

Parents/Caregivers of a child/youth with special health care needs are encouraged to apply for up to \$250 for a camp scholarship from the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center). Camp scholarships are not just limited to face to face, virtual camps are considered as well. Applications are being accepted now through **March 31, 2021**, but funding is limited so apply now! For any questions or to request the application forms, please contact the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.

Parent Connect Calls

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is excited to offer a series of free virtual Parent Connect Calls twice monthly. The next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 11:00am**. Megan Mezel from the Family Center will be hosting a panel discussion with educators and family advocates on transitioning back to class after teaching our children virtually for almost a year. To register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-tickets-139702627319>



Health Insurance Marketplace

A Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for Marketplace health insurance has opened up in response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. This SEP allows individuals and families to enroll in 2021 health insurance coverage from **February 15, 2021** through **May 15, 2021**. Eligible families can submit a new application or update an existing application. Families may call the Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596 or visit online:

<https://www.healthcare.gov/quick-guide/getting-marketplace-health-insurance/>

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.