

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – July 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.



Parent Connect Calls

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) is excited to offer a series of free virtual Parent Connect Calls each month. The next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 4:00pm**. Marc McWilliams of DRM (Disability Rights Michigan) will share how advocates and lawyers of DRM advise individuals with disabilities of their rights and responsibilities and advocate for their human, civil, and legal rights within the state of Michigan.

The August call will be on **Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 11:00am**. Scott DeVarona will be discussing the MiAble Savings Account for those with disabilities.

To register for either event, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/cshcs-division-and-the-family-center-for-cyshcn-10213159148>



Health Insurance Marketplace

You have through **August 15, 2021** to enroll in or change your Health Insurance Marketplace plan due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) emergency. Families may call the Health Insurance Marketplace at 800-318-2596 or visit online:

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

For next month's Newsletter, please go to "Hot Topics" at www.kalcounty.com/hcs or find it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ KalamazooCounty HCS](https://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.

Talking is Teaching

The Kalamazoo Great Start Collaborative has joined forces with Talking is Teaching, a national campaign to boost the early learning and brain development of children from birth through early elementary. Kalamazoo County Talking is Teaching aims to give parents and caregivers the tools to talk, read, and sing more with their young children from birth to increase meaningful interactions that are critical to healthy brain development. Family Literacy Walks are taking place at various parks throughout Kalamazoo County all summer long. Come for a self-led stroll exploring the colorful yard signs. Upcoming Literacy Walks are:

Upjohn Park	June 25 - July 9
Spring Valley Park	July 30 - Aug. 13
LaCrone Park	Aug. 14 - Aug. 28

For more information on Family Literacy Walks and to access the Talking is Teaching materials, please visit:

<https://www.kalamazoo greatstart collaborative.org/talkingisteaching>

Food Resources

Kzoo Parks, the South Michigan Food Bank, and Catholic Charities: Diocese of Kalamazoo will distribute free boxes of food at Mayors' Riverfront Park (251 Mills St.) on the **third Friday of each month** from **2:00-4:00pm**. For more information visit: <https://www.kzoo parks.org/foodbox>. 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

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 **August 31, 2021** will be reviewed in September. Please go to www.michigan.gov/csnfund to download an application. To ask for an application to be sent to you, please call 517-241-7420 or email csnfund@michigan.gov.



COVID-19: Vaccination Information

Visit the health department at **311 E. Alcott St.** for your FREE COVID-19 vaccine. No ID required and no appointment needed. Walk-ins welcome! Clinic hours are:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for anyone 12 years or older. Anyone under 18 years old needs to be accompanied by a parent or guardian when being vaccinated.

It is important to continue the following practices to protect yourself if you are not vaccinated yet:

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

For the most up-to-date information visit: www.kalcounty.com/covid19 and www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. You may also call the health department's COVID-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200.

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.



Kalamazoo county Pre-K is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year!

There are many high-quality options available to families with in-person learning as well as distanced and hybrid options. Kalamazoo County Pre-K programs are either free or low-cost for qualifying families.

Please be aware that according to new guidelines, all children must be:

- **3 years old on or before December 1* in order to be age eligible for the 3-year-old programs.**
- **4 years old on or before December 1* in order to be age eligible for the 4-year-old programs.**

*Placement may be prioritized for children who will be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1.

Questions? Need help? Call 269-250-9333 or visit <https://www.kresa.org/Page/1368>



Kalamazoo Area FREE Events

Friday, July 23: Movies in the Park - *Trolls World Tour* at Ramona Park. Show starts at 9:00pm. Either watch from your car or bring chairs to sit outside your vehicle.

For additional fun things to do in Kalamazoo, please visit <https://kzookids.com/events/>