

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



## 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 County Health & Community Services is offering influenza vaccines. Call 269-373-5203 to schedule your appointment.



## 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/>



## MyCITY

### Summer Youth Employment Program

A key component of this year's MyCITY program is connecting youth with a new virtual career exploration software: VirtualJobShadow. This platform is centered on non- and traditional youth trajectories featuring non-college-bound career pathways, representation of disabled individuals at work, life skills training, and planning tools that will streamline future planning.

For just 7 weeks of the summer, youth accepted into MyCITY, will be paid to discover and ignite their future by exploring as many career paths as possible, developing leadership skills, learning how to set goals and maintain accountability, and connecting with community employers while working alongside peers with the support of a dedicated career coach.

Last year, MyCITY was conducted 100% virtually, but, in 2021, a hybrid model will be utilized pairing virtual experiences with in-person application immersions when it is deemed safe to do so. MyCITY is open to 14-21 year old residents of Kalamazoo who are ready to take the next step on their career pathway. Spots are limited. For more information and to apply for MyCITY go to <https://www.kresa.org/mycity> now through **April 9, 2021**.

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

## 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.

**Caregivers of individuals with special needs can now pre-register on the waitlist form at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine).**

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**

For the most up-to-date information visit: [www.kalcounty.com/covid19](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19) and [www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS](https://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.

## 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.

**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>

## 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 17, 2021 at 4:00pm**. Ayanna Eggleston from the Family Center will be speaking on grief and loss. Different types of loss, stages of grief, self-care surrounding grief, and resources available will be explored. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-tickets-141049112693?aff=erelexpmlt>