

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



Safe Kids Kalamazoo – Car Seat Program

Get your car seat professionally checked by a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Safe Kids Kalamazoo is now scheduling appointments for car seat inspections at their Bronson Methodist Hospital location on **Mondays** from **1:00pm-4:00pm** and **Wednesdays** from **3:00pm-6:00pm**. To register, please visit: <https://www.bronsonhealth.com/classes-events/event-results/?topicid=553>.

If you are in need of a car seat, you may qualify to receive one at no cost. To receive a digital copy of the Eligibility Form, please email Sam Tefft at tefft@bronsonhg.org or call 269-341-6508.



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/csntfund to download an application. To ask for an application to be sent to you, please call 517-241-7420 or email csntfund@michigan.gov.

Talking is Teaching

The Kalamazoo Great Start Collaborative (a program of Kalamazoo RESA) 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. There are a number of activities, including monthly themes, virtual playgroups, and parent skill-building sessions. For access to the Talking is Teaching materials, please visit:

<https://www.kalamazoo greatstartcollaborative.org/materials>

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 twice monthly. The next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 19, 2021** at **4:00pm**. The topic for this call is Special Education Mediation Services (SEMS). SEMS is a statewide program that provides help to families and schools with navigating special education supports and services for children from birth through 26 years old. To register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-tickets-148658105395?aff=erelexpmlt>.

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

Eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine now includes all people over the age of 16 years old who live in Kalamazoo County. Despite this expanded eligibility, vaccination efforts in Kalamazoo County will continue to prioritize residents based on highest risk, including older adults, those with underlying medical conditions, caregivers of children with special needs, and frontline workers.

The Health Department has introduced an online self-scheduling tool for Kalamazoo County residents (who are eligible) to make appointments for upcoming clinics. Please visit: www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine. The vaccine continues to be provided by appointment at vaccination sites.

Once you make your appointment online, you will get a confirmation email. If you do not see this confirmation email, please make sure you are registered by contacting the COVID-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200, **Monday** through **Friday** from **8:00am-5:00pm**.

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 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.



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>



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 **May 31, 2021**, but funding is limited so apply now! For questions or to request the application forms, please contact the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.