**Guidelines for Parents**

The Children’s Special Services (CSS) program supports children and youth with conditions that require support and services beyond those of their typically developing peers. Eligible conditions include developmental disabilities in addition to chronic health conditions. Children and youth with special health care needs have the same needs as typically developing children in addition to their need for other types of supports based on their condition and individual and family needs. CSS is here to help! The following guidelines are to assist you in understanding our program.

## ABOUT THE CSS PROGRAM:

## CSS provides care coordination services (case management) to support families of children and youth in accessing community-based, family-centered, culturally sensitive services which will assist children with special health care needs to reach their maximum potential. Arkansas’ CSS program’s goals are:

## To assist families in accessing sufficient health care services

## To assist families with transition from pediatric to adult systems of care.

## CSS serves children and youth from birth to age 21, with a long term physical or developmental condition. Some examples include:

## Asthma, Diabetes, Sickle Cell Anemia, Cystic Fibrosis, childhood cancers, and heart disease

## Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Autism Spectrum Disorders

## Hearing impairment and limited vision impairments

## Spina Bifida, Muscular Dystrophy and

## Many other health conditions.

## CSS ELIGIBILITY:

Your child with a diagnosed condition that meets eligibility requirements must be an Arkansas resident under 21 years of age, who is Medicaid eligible (SSI, TEFRA, or ARKids A) and not receiving case management services through another program. Applicants must meet financial and medical eligibility requirements. Eligibility is determined initially, and then annually by the CSS program administration. The child/family receives notification via letter of eligibility.  
  
The following children are not eligible to receive CSS Services:

* Children who are currently receiving case management services through another program (i.e., children enrolled in a Provider-Led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity [PASSE])
* Recipients of the 1915(c) Autism Waiver
* Children in the care of the State of Arkansas
* Children receiving Hospice Care without concurrent disease modifying treatment.
* Children living in a residential care setting, such as a skilled nursing facility or intermediate care facility.

NOTE: You know your child best. If your child is an infant or toddler and does not have a diagnosed condition that would qualify him/her for the CSS program but you have concerns about your child’s development, request that his/her doctor (primary care provider) complete a developmental screening or refer your child for a developmental screening with the State’s birth to three early intervention program, First Connections <https://dhs.arkansas.gov/dds/firstconnectionsweb/#fc-home>. For children ages three to five, contact your local school district or educational cooperative.  
 **CARE COORDINATION:**

Families of children that are CSS eligible receive assistance from a CSS Registered Nurse (RN) Care Coordinator in coordinating their child's care. CSS RN Care Coordinators have helped families with:

* Finding a medical home
* Finding information about their child's condition
* Finding support in times of stress and crisis
* Obtaining medical equipment related to their child’s special needs
* Coordinating payment for their child’s special health care needs
* Working with all the professionals on a plan that meets their child's and their family's needs
* Transitioning from the pediatric care system to an adult care system
* Applying for insurance for their child as he/she transitions to adulthood.

Your family is the center of the team of providers who will be tending to the needs of your child because you know your child better than anyone else!

## CSS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

## When funding allows, CSS provides limited direct services to fill an unmet need when no other program, service, or pay source exists in the State to provide these services to families of eligible children under the age of 18. Services for CSS eligible children are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and are prior authorized by CSS. The CSS program is the “payer of last resort,” meaning that CSS funds cannot be used to pay for services covered by other programs or pay sources. If a child would be eligible for Medicaid (SSI, TEFRA, ARKids A or ARKids B) or for insurance through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) the family must apply for coverage before they can be considered for eligibility for CSS services.

## CSS Program Assistance Categories:

## Non-Medicaid Population*:*

## Deductibles, Coinsurance, and Co-pays: CSS may assist with deductibles, coinsurance, and copays for CSS eligible services. Children with private health insurance and any other insurance inclusive of Medicaid that covers deductibles, coinsurance, or copays are not eligible for this assistance category. CSS may assist with the deductible, coinsurance, and co-pay amounts for households with gross monthly income up to 350% Federal Poverty Level, as determined by CSS staff during eligibility determination, provided it does not exceed the assistance limit.

## Both Medicaid & Non-Medicaid Population:

## Please Note: The examples provided below are not an exhaustive list of possible needs that could be met through the CSS Program Assistance categories.

## Adaptive Equipment: Any assistive technology device, equipment, or product system used to increase, maintain, or improve the performance of Activities of Daily Living (ADL) for an eligible child. Adaptive equipment may be purchased off-the-shelf, modified, or custom made. Some examples include adaptive feeding utensils, wheelchairs, communication device with protective cover, communication device applications to enhance communication skills, portable wheelchair ramps, feeding chairs, bathing chairs, adaptive car seat, adaptive stroller, walker, gait trainer, stander, adaptive tricycle, toileting systems, and sensory items (weighted blankets).

## Medical Camps: Camps specifically designed to meet a child’s specific medical and/or developmental needs while providing opportunities for children with medical needs or developmental delays to increase independence and learn from social interactions with peers. Some examples include Diabetic Camp, Hematology/Oncology Camp, Camp Aldersgate, Asthma Camp, Camp Barnabas, Kota Camp, and Muscular Dystrophy Camp.

## Medically Necessary Item or Equipment: A medically necessary item or equipment prescribed by a primary care physician (PCP) or other attending medical practitioner. Some examples include: PKU foods, hearing aids, audiology, scoliosis brace, insulin pumps, ostomy supplies, low air flow mattress, feeding pumps, feeding supplies, orthotics which may include orthopedic shoes, prosthetics, continuous blood glucose monitors, respiratory supplies, safety items for vehicle and home, diapers (age three and over) limit $130.00/month, and diabetic supplies.

## Parent Education: Fees and necessary expenses associated with parent/guardian acquiring knowledge of their eligible child's CSS qualifying disability or delay. Some examples include reimbursement of disease specific conference registration fees and lodging in accordance with US Government Services Administration (GSA) rate <https://www.gsa.gov/travel?topnav=travel>, educational materials (books, DVDs, etc.) and training identified as a need during the transition process related to diagnosis.

## Respite: Temporary relief that allows the primary caregiver of a child with a disability or special health care needs to have an occasional break from caring for the child. Respite services must be provided by a Medicaid enrolled provider of respite, supportive living, or personal care services.

## Vehicle Modification: Modification in accordance with Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements that allows the vehicle to be accessible for an eligible child and increase the eligible child's mobility or access to services. Some examples include wheelchair carrier, lift, ramp, Valet Turny Seat, or hand controls for steering wheel.

**RIGHT TO APPEAL**

Any CSS applicant/recipient has the right to appeal a CSS decision. To appeal a decision, you must make the request in writing to the CSS Program Director within ten (10) business days from the date of notification.