



## Family Support Program

### What is the Family Support Program?

**In-home support for families who have children with severe disabilities.** The Family Support Program provides individual services and supports to families that include a child with severe disabilities. The Program recognizes that meeting the needs of children who have severe disabilities may place hardships on a family's emotional, physical and financial resources.

The Program offers:

- Information and help in finding services and maximizing community resources;
- Limited funding to buy needed services and goods that can't be bought through other sources;
- Help in linking families with other families to strengthen natural supports.

### Program Guidelines

The foundation of the Family Support Program is the belief that parents of children who have severe disabilities know best what they need.

[Family Support Coordinators](#) and parents work together to develop an individualized service plan for each family. Home modifications, transportation, specialized equipment, nursing care and respite are examples of items and services the Family Support Program can help the family purchase.

---

### How Does the Program Work?

Families apply for services through their local Family Support Program. The application process includes an eligibility determination and a needs assessment. Information is gathered from a variety of sources which may include interviews with the family, educational records and medical history.

Once eligibility has been determined, a [Family Support Coordinator](#) schedules a home visit with the family. Together the family and coordinator develop a service plan that addresses the family's unique situation, identifying support needs and setting priorities.

As the service plan is developed, all supports available to the family are explored. Formal supports include medical, social services, educational and funding resources. Informal supports include friends, family, neighbors and community groups, businesses, or organizations.

In addition, the [Family Support Coordinator](#) may help families learn about and use services in their community, help coordinate services and advocate on behalf of the child and family.

---

**Who is Eligible?**

Families are eligible for services if they have a child with a severe disability, under the age of 21, and living at home. A severe disability is a physical, mental, or emotional limitation which seriously restricts the child's ability to carry out basic daily living activities such as self-care, learning, communications, mobility and self-direction.

Although family income is not a basis for eligibility, cost-sharing may be required on a sliding fee scale.

---

**Will the Program Meet the Needs of all Eligible Families?**

Family Support is a state-funded program. Because each county has limited funding for this program, eligibility does not guarantee a family will receive services. Agencies may have waiting lists for services and assessments. Administering agencies make the final decision on who is served and approve each family's service plan.

Priority for services may be given to families in a crisis situation or families who are bringing a child home from an out-of-home placement.

---

**How to Apply**

For information and an application, please contact your local county [Family Support Coordinator](#). If required, ask to speak to a representative in Spanish.

Milwaukee: (414) 289-6799 or (414) 289-6799 (Spanish)

Waukesha: (262) 548-7730

Kenosha: (262) 657-7188

Racine: (262) 638-6635

Walworth: (262) 741-3200

Jefferson: (920) 674-8186

Ozaukee: (262) 284-8127

Washington: (262) 335-4583

If the telephone number of the local county Coordinator above is incorrect, call the Southeastern Region Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs program: 414-266-63333 or 800-234-5437

For more information contact Beth Wroblewski at (608) 266-7469 or by e-mail at [wroblbm@dhfs.state.wi.us](mailto:wroblbm@dhfs.state.wi.us)

