

## *Division of Specialized Care for Children (DSCC)*

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### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

#### **AGE:**

Birth to 21 years of age receive financial assistance for specialized care.

#### **RESIDENCY:**

Eligible children must live within the state of Illinois and be U.S. citizens or have parents who are lawfully admitted to the U.S. on a visa, which permits them to remain permanently. Children whose families regularly return to the state to perform agricultural labor may also meet residency requirements.

#### **MEDICAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

Medically eligible children are those who have disabling conditions that: are amenable to treatment; are expected to be long lasting or lifelong; have a life expectancy sufficient to realize the benefits from the treatment; have a need for long-term, highly specialized medical care, including related rehabilitative services; and involve multiple physical defects, disabilities, and handicaps.

***Eligible Conditions:***

Eligible conditions may be congenital or acquired in origin and involve the following impairments:

- Cardiovascular impairments primarily affecting the heart and larger blood vessels
- Cystic fibrosis
- External body impairments, including the oral and nasal structures and severe oro-craniofacial deformities
- Eye impairments, excluding isolated refractive errors
- Hearing impairments (loss of hearing or deafness of at least 30 decibels in two frequencies, or a 35 decibel loss in one speech frequency involving one or both ears)
- Hemophilia and similar chronic defects of coagulation or chronic hemorrhage
- Inborn errors of metabolism (only congenital disorders)
- Nervous system impairments affecting the brain, spinal cord, or peripheral nerves
- Orthopedic impairments affecting bones, joints, or muscles
- Speech impairments arising from any structural defect of the organs responsible for vocalization or neurological defects specific to orderly speech development \*
- Urinary tract impairments, including chronic organic impairments affecting the kidney, ureter, bladder, and/or urethra \*\*

\* Developmental language deficits are not eligible.

\*\* Children requiring chronic renal dialysis and/or renal transplant are not eligible.

***Excluded Conditions:***

Acute conditions, except those children with a resulting disability may be eligible after completion of: medical treatment for the acute condition, children considered to be blind and not amenable to ophthalmologic intervention, malignancy \*, persistent vegetative state, psychosocial dysfunction, renal impairments requiring chronic renal dialysis and/or renal transplant.

\* While malignancy is not an eligible condition, certain impairments resulting from a malignancy may be eligible.

***FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:***

***General Financial Eligibility:***

General financial eligibility is based upon federal poverty level and family size. Full financial assistance is provided to families whose incomes are equal to or less than 285% of the federal poverty level, adjusted for family size.

***Financial Eligibility for Initial Screening:***

Program does not support "screening," however, initial diagnostic services to determine the presence of an eligible medical condition are provided without regard to ability to pay. Families are expected to use any existing insurance or other 3rd party benefits prior to seeking payment from DSCC for any needed diagnostic service.

***Family Co-Payment or Financial Participation Requirements:***

Not addressed. Contact the Program directly for more information.

***SCOPE OF SERVICES***

***SERVICES:***

***Eligible Services:***

DSCC provides or authorizes payment for a broad array of specialty services including:

|   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Assistive appliances                        | Physical and occupational therapy  |
| Consultative services                       | Specialized dental care            |
| Inpatient medical and/or surgical treatment | Child with severe oro-craniofacial |
| Limited convalescent and home based care    | deformities                        |
| Nutritional evaluation and guidance         | Specialized prescriptive drugs     |
| Transportation, lodging, and meals          | Speech and hearing therapy         |

***Excluded Services:***

- Cosmetic surgery
- Custodial services
- Educational and developmental services
- Experimental or investigative services/devices/drugs
- Mental health services
- Organ transplantation and related anti-rejection drugs
- Primary care services required to support general health (routine well child/dental care, immunizations, etc.)

***HOW/WHERE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED:***

Services are provided through DSCC field clinics with a specific scope (cardiac, neurology, orthopedic), outpatient clinics associated with DSCC approved health care facilities, and a broad range of private specialists and health care providers.

***Specialty Clinics/Programs:***

DSCC approves and utilizes specialty programs in the following clinical areas:

Cardiac Care including Surgery  
Cleft Lip and Palate  
Cochlear Implantation  
Craniofacial Anomalies

Cystic Fibrosis  
Epilepsy Surgery  
Hemophilia  
Selective Posterior Rhizotomy

***Out-of-State Services:***

Out-of-state services may be provided if the needed resource is not available in Illinois. Services provided within 25 miles of Illinois borders are considered in-state services.

***COORDINATION OF FINANCIAL BENEFITS AND SERVICES:***

***Coordination of Financial Benefits:***

DSCC is the payor of last resort after maximum use of insurance benefits, trusts, gifts, legal settlements, or other public or private resources.

***Coordination of Care:***

Care coordination is a significant program component and is provided for all medically eligible children regardless of eligibility for financial assistance. Professional staff will evaluate each child's condition, and with the family's participation, develop an Individual Service Plan, recommend health care providers and facilities, assist with arrangement of health care, and monitor the status of the child and family.

***SPECIALIZED OR UNIQUE SERVICES, SPECIAL GRANTS, WORKSHOPS, ETC.:***

DSCC administers various related programs which serve children with special needs including:

The Supplemental Security Income/Disabled Children's Program (SSI/DC)  
SSI/DC Program eligible children are offered assistance to locate and access programs providing needed services including the DSCC program for CSHCN.

The Medicaid Home Care Program for Technology Dependent Children  
Eligible children receive medical care, home nursing services, medical equipment and supplies, home modifications, respite care, and medical day care needed to care for them in their own home and community rather than a hospital or skilled nursing facility.

***STATUTORY/REGULATORY AUTHORITY:***

Statutory: Implementing Section 1 of the Specialized Care for Children Act (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1991, ch. 144, par 67.1) [110 ILCS 345/1] and authorized by Section 1 of the University of Illinois Act (Ill. Rev. Stat. 1991, ch. 144, par. 22) [110 ILCS 305/1].

Regulatory: Adopted at 11 Ill. Reg. 3508, effective February 10, 1987; amended at 13 Ill. Reg. 9283, effective June 6, 1989; amended at 14 Ill. Reg. 5136, effective March 22, 1990; amended at 17 Ill. Reg. 1137, effective March 8, 1993; emergency amendment at 17 Ill. Reg. effective January 24, 1994.