



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) SERVICES

The DOH supports children with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through its Special Child Health Services (SCHS) and collaborating systems that span from birth into young adulthood. Here's a breakdown of what's available:

SPECIAL CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

New Jersey's 21 counties each operate a [Case Management Unit](#). Their goal is to ensure that children and youth with special health care needs from birth up until their 22nd birthday have access to preventive and primary care. These units provide culturally competent, coordinated case management at no cost to families.

CHILD EVALUATION CENTERS

[CEC](#) Offer statewide, multidisciplinary evaluations and care coordination for children under 21 with or at risk for neurodevelopmental or behavioral disorders—covering everything from neurology, FASD, cleft palate, etc. through a core team of specialists in one location, with no income eligibility requirements. All centers support families with educational resources and individualized service planning, eliminating the need to visit multiple providers

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM/ HEARING AID FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

This [program](#) is for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) in New Jersey who are uninsured or underinsured and cannot afford to purchase medically necessary items. Must be registered with NJ Birth Defects Registry and be a resident for 3 months

NJ BIRTH DEFECTS REGISTRY

This is a population-based, confidential [database](#) of children with specific birth defects and serves as the main referral source into local Special Child Health and Early Intervention case management. Established in 1928 and expanded in 1985, it uniquely includes metabolic, genetic, and hearing conditions often excluded by other states. Once a child is registered, by diagnosis up to age five, their information is sent to the county SCHS unit to help connect them with needed services.

EARLY INTERVENTION (EI)

The New Jersey Department of Health ensures families play an active role in every stage of the [Early Intervention System](#) and encourages collaborative, informal resolutions when disagreements occur. Children who miss developmental milestones in their first three years should be referred for evaluation, and families with incomes under 300% of the Federal Poverty Level receive services at no cost.