

FAMILY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

The Family Partnership provides information and support to children and youth with special health care needs and their families. These individuals are also given the opportunity to network with each other through various settings including regional and statewide meetings. Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) utilizes information from Family Partnership members to enhance the relationship between SHCN and the individuals and families they serve.

Family Partnership members include individuals with special health care needs as well as their parents, family members and legal guardians. The Family Partnership has Family Partners who share responsibility statewide and are also parents of individuals with special health care needs. In addition to providing information and resources to members, the Family Partners plan, schedule, and facilitate the Family Partnership meetings.

The goals of Family Partnership are to:

- Provide families the opportunity to offer each other support and information.
- Give families the opportunity to provide SHCN input on the needs of individuals with special health care needs.
- Build public and community awareness of the unique needs and issues facing families of individuals with special health care needs.
- Promote legislation for programs for individuals with special health care needs and their families.

To ensure continued collaboration between SHCN and Family Partnership, Service Coordinators are required to attend one Family Partnership regional meeting annually. Service Coordinators must also provide Family Partnership information to all participants upon initial enrollment and encourage participation in Family Partnership activities.