

Family Partnership for Children & 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.

Mission

The mission of the Family Partnership is to communicate, advocate and network through a family and agency team-supported effort to enable individuals with special health care needs to reach their fullest potential throughout life.



Members

Family Partnership members include individuals with special health care needs as well as their parents, legal guardians and siblings.

Staff

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 Family Partnership meetings.

Goals

The goals of the 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 special health care needs individuals and their families.

Ways to Become Involved

- Attend regional meetings
- Attend the annual Retreat for Parents and Caregivers
- Contact Family Partners for resources and information
- Receive the *Partnering Together* newsletter
- Subscribe to the Family Partnership electronic mailing list



Children with special health care needs are those who have, or are at increased risk for a disease, defect or medical condition that may hinder their normal physical growth and development. These children require health and related services that go beyond those required by children in general.

Family Partnership Website

Please visit our website to access additional information.

www.dhss.mo.gov/SHCN

The site includes:

- Family Stories—submitted by parents or guardians of individuals with special health care needs
- Newsletters—updates on what's happening across the state
- Calendar of Events—Family Partnership meeting dates and notes plus other events

Family Partners can be reached through the following agencies:

Missouri Department of Health
and Senior Services

Special Health Care Needs
P.O. Box 570
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Miller County Health Center
P.O. Box 2
Tuscumbia, MO 65082

Toll-Free Number
1-866-809-2400, ext. 308



for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs

SHCN provides interpreter services (language or sign) for participants and/or family members. Alternate forms of this publication for persons with disabilities may be obtained by contacting the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services at the number listed above. Hearing- and speech-impaired citizens can dial 711.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER
Services provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Family Partnership



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**Missouri Department of
Health and Senior Services**

