Resource Guide
for Parents of Children with Disabilities

Houston and Surrounding Areas

by

Elaine Hime
The 1997 Barbara Jordan Media Award for Special Contribution by an Individual presented by the Texas Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities

published by
Elaine Hime

and

Texas Children’s Hospital
www.texaschildrenshospital.org

Underwriters
Dynamic Orthotics and Prosthetics
Medco Medical and Hospital Supply Inc.
Houston Pediatric Surgeons
Robert S. Bloss, M.D.
The Children’s Museum of Houston
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This Resource Guide is intended to provide parents with a start in locating resources and services for children with disabilities. It is not intended as a comprehensive listing of information and services in the Houston area.

A listing in this Guide does not imply a recommendation, endorsement, promise or guarantee of any kind by the publishers, author or underwriters. The information in this Guide is not intended to be medical advice. The resources listed are those that have come to the attention of Elaine Hime—other resources may exist.

All listings are current at the time of publication but are subject to change thereafter.
# Resource Guide for Parents of Children with Disabilities

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This Guide is dedicated to

Jerry and Cindy Holditch
for their friendship and generous support of my work.

God has given each of you some special abilities; be sure to use them to help each other, passing on to others God’s many kinds of blessings.

I Peter 4:10

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Turn your ear towards wisdom and apply your heart to understanding, and if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:2 – 5
Dear Parents,

The Resource Guide represents the past 15 years of my life. In the summer of 1991, my 6-month-old son, Rutherford, was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, microcephaly, epilepsy, delayed development and cortical blindness.

My life, my husband's life and our two older children's lives abruptly changed – changed as when time changed from B.C. to A.D. Except, for us, it changed from Before Rutherford to After Rutherford.

Looking at the past was going backward. Looking ahead was too painful, too uncertain and too far away. All we could handle was today. Today was enough.

Today moved slowly, slow enough to let every change take hold. Slow enough to let in doctors, specialists, nurses, therapists, caseworkers, hospitals and clinics. Never slow enough to add to our lives, just slow enough to replace other parts.

My husband Jim says any change, good or bad, is hard. But this change was all-encompassing. The hospital became our second home. The emergency room replaced the grocery store as a place to run into friends. Appointments became daily errands. Our home changed with the addition of an IV pole, slow-drip milk pump, and suction machine. The kitchen junk drawer was replaced with an orderly array of syringes. I learned to spell epilepsy and microcephaly.

Then, when I could look back, I began to see that this change began much earlier.

Earlier changes in our lives – mine, my husband's and my children's – were preparing us for the changes Rutherford brought. The change had rested in my heart, waiting for the love of a special child.
That child embodies the love and commitment my husband and I have for one another, for our children and for the Lord. Rutherford grounded our family.

This love for our son refines us, humbles us, brings us great joy. Because of Rutherford, I found talents I might never have discovered. The lows may be the lowest, but the highs are also the highest. Rutherford is our touchstone.

This is an update and the eighth printing of the Resource Guide. The 1,000 copies in the first printing went to parents of children with disabilities.

I wrote the Resource Guide so parents would have a “map” of services offered in the Houston area. An important goal of the Guide was to give parents the telephone numbers for direct contact with the programs, so they could talk to case managers and receive applications.

The Resource Guide is also a result of my own frustration: of hearing “No” or “I don’t know” from case managers assigned to my son’s case, of reading about programs that seemed to exist only on paper, knowing that the phrase “contact your local department” was a dead-end, of being passed by agencies from person to person and getting no answers but only more numbers to call.

As my husband and I began to feel we were drowning in a sea of professionals, we realized that the best advice for our son Rutherford would come from other parents.

But where do you find other parents? They were all around me – in hospitals and emergency rooms, in doctors’ waiting rooms and at therapy. All I had to do was reach out and ask. I found my answers, and I found some of my closest friends.

My hope is that, with the Resource Guide, parents can make an easier transition from “normal” to new normal.

Elaine J. Hime
INFORMATION RESOURCES

National

Exceptional Parent Magazine
Customer Service
P.O. Box 2078
Marion, OH 43306-2178
1-877-372-7368
www.eparent.com
Published 11 times a year for parents of children with disabilities.

Family Voices
2340 Alamo SE, Ste 102
Albuquerque, NM 87106
1-888-835-5669
www.familyvoices.org
A national grassroots network of families and friends, advocates for health care services that are family-centered, community-based, comprehensive, coordinated and culturally competent for all children and youth with special health care needs.

Institute for Family-Centered Care
7900 Wisconsin Ave., Ste. 405
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-652-0281
www.familycenteredcare.org
The Institute of Family-Centered Care, a non-profit organization, provides essential leadership to advance the understanding and practice of patient- and family-centered care. The Institute serves as a central resource for both family members and members of the health care field.

Mothers United for Moral Support Inc. (MUMS) National Parent to Parent Network
c/o Julie Gordon
150 Custer Court
Green Bay, WI 54301
920-336-5333, 1-877-336-5333 (parents only)
www.netnet.net/mums
Parent-to-parent network organization for parents or care providers of children with disabilities. Provides a national networking system that matches parents with other parents of children with similar conditions. Publishes a quarterly newsletter.

The Fathers Network
c/o Greg Schell
16120 NE Eighth St.
Bellevue, WA 98008-3937
425-747-4004, Ext. 4286
www.fathersnetwork.org
Publishes a newsletter.
Information resources

The National Center of Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
141 Northwest Point Blvd.
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
847-434-4000
www.medicalhomeinfo.org
The goal of this program is to ensure that children with special needs have a medical home where health care services are accessible, family-centered, continuous, comprehensive, coordinated, compassionate and culturally-competent. Through the National Center, physicians, parents, administrators and other health professionals have access to educational, resource and advocacy materials, guidelines for care, evaluation tools and technical assistance.

National Information Center for Children and Youth with Disabilities (NICHCY)
P.O. Box 1492
Washington, D.C. 20013-1492
1-800-695-0285
www.nichcy.org
Offers a free package of information about national and state resources, a publication list and various booklets.

Sibling Support Project
6512 23rd Ave. NW, Ste. 213
Seattle, WA 98117
206-297-6368
www.siblingsupport.org
Provides publications, training and technical assistance to help organize peer-support and education programs for siblings of people with disabilities. Conducts workshops throughout the United States for families and service providers.

United Cerebral Palsy Association
1660 L St. NW, Ste. 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
1-800-USA-5UCP (5827)
www.ucpa.org
Provides general information and an information packet about cerebral palsy.
State

**Deaf Blind Multi-Handicapped Association of Texas (DBMAT)**
4230 LBJ Freeway
LB #31, #340
Dallas, TX 75244
432-264-6780
www.dbmat-tx.org
DBMAT’s mission is to promote and improve the quality of life for all Texans who are deaf, blind and multi-handicapped and blind multi-handicapped.

**EveryChild, Inc.**
4107 Spicewood Springs Rd., Ste. 216
Austin, TX 78759
877-742-8844 or 512-342-8847
www.everychildtexas.org
The mission of EveryChild is to ensure the development of family-based alternatives for children with disabilities residing in institutional settings or at risk of out-of-home placement and to ensure the availability of family supports needed so children have the opportunity to grow up in a loving, nurturing and enduring relationship within a family.

In Houston, contact Sharon Carey at the Parent Education Project, University of Houston, 713-743-5614

**Texas Autism Advocacy**
www.TexasAutismAdvocacy.org
An information, resource, and support interactive list for parents and professionals who have, or serve, individuals who have an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

**Texas Center for Disability Studies (TxCDS), University of Texas at Austin**
4030-2 West Braker Ln, Ste. 220
Austin, TX 78759
512-232-0740, 1-800-828-7839
www.tcds.edb.utexas.edu
The mission of TxCDS is to serve as a catalyst so that people with developmental and other disabilities are fully included in all levels of their communities and in control of their lives. TxCDS consists of an inter-disciplinary team of professionals at the university level, persons with disabilities from state, regional and local communities, statewide services providers and advocacy organizations.
The mission of TxCDD is to create change so that all people with disabilities are fully included in their communities and exercise control over their own lives.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) Parent Special Education Information Line
1-800-252-9668
Special education staff are available to help parents with concerns about their child's education.

Texas Parent to Parent (Txp2p)
3710 Cedar Street, Box 12
Austin, TX 78705
1-866-896-6001, 512-458-8600
www.txp2p.org
Txp2p empowers families to be advocates for their children with disabilities, chronic illnesses, and other special needs through peer support, resource referral and public awareness.

Texas Technology Access Project (TTAP)
University of Texas at Austin
4030-2 West Braker Lane, Ste. 220
Austin, TX
1-800-828-7839 (answered by TxCDS)
http://techaccess.edb.utexas.edu/
The TTAP provides information, conducts training and technical assistance and works with policy makers to support children and adults with disabilities in their efforts to acquire and use technology as a routine part of day-to-day living.
**Dionysus Theatre**
5601 S. Braeswood
Houston, TX 77096
713-728-0041
www.dionysustheatre.org
Dionysus Theatre is a non-profit organization that provides theatre experience for teens and young adults who are disabled, disadvantaged, chronically ill, or those able-bodied actors who want to help spread messages of love, dignity and tolerance for people of all abilities. Classes and auditions available.

**Houston Center for Independent Living (HCIL)**
6201 Bonhomme Rd., Ste. 1505
Houston, TX 77036
713-974-4621 (V/TTY)
www.coalitionforbarrierfreeliving.com
The Center for Independent Living provides information and referral, peer support, individual and systems advocacy, independent living skills training and coordination of services.

**Parent Education Project (PEP)**
210 Student Services Center 1
University of Houston
Houston, TX 77204-3025
713-743-5435
Contact: Angie Grindon
www.las.uh.edu/PEP
Provides information and referral for families of children with disabilities, parent-to-parent case management services for families of children with special health care needs, monthly parent groups (see HPIN on page 23) a quarterly newsletter, and advocates for families on local advisory committees.
Information resources

**Project DOCC Houston/Baylor College of Medicine**
Meyer Center for Developmental Pediatrics
Texas Children's Hospital Clinical Care Center
6621 Fannin St., CC 1530
Houston, TX 77030
832-822-3424, hime@bcm.edu
www.projectdocchouston.org

Contact: Elaine Hime
Project DOCC's mission is to provide pediatric residents with a comprehensive understanding of life with a child with chronic illness/disabilities. Project DOCC trains families to be teachers, thereby widening a doctor's perspective from hospital/office to the home/community. Project DOCC Houston is a family faculty program partnering with families as parent teachers for the Baylor College of Medicine first year pediatric residents at Texas Children's Hospital.

**TEAM Project (Partners Resource Network, Inc.)**
3311 Richmond, Ste. 334
Houston, TX 77098
1-877-832-8945, 713-524-2147
www.partnerstx.org

The purpose of the TEAM Project is to empower parents of children and youth with disabilities in their roles as parents, decision makers, and advocates for their children in Special Education. TEAM is the parent training and information (PTI) for the Houston area.

**The River Performing and Visual Arts Center**
1475 W. Gray
Houston, TX 77019
713-520-1220
www.riverperformingvisualarts.com

An inclusive, extracurricular, affordable and barrier-free theater and visual arts program that creates learning opportunities through the arts for children ages 3 through 19 with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses and their siblings. The River is a non-profit project endorsed by Very Special Arts/Texas, an affiliate of the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts.
Financial aid comes in two basic forms: private health insurance and government assistance.

Private health insurance

Your employer can provide information about your insurance coverage, or you can call your insurance provider directly. Ask about limits or “caps” on the amount your insurance will pay for the treatment of certain conditions. Some plans have lifetime limits of certain amounts.

If your insurance has limits, you can investigate other funding sources such as Early Childhood Intervention Programs (page 17) for therapy and equipment.

Use Early Childhood Intervention Programs (ECI) when you can. Save your insurance to pay for ongoing chronic health problems. In some cases, you can combine private insurance with other financial aid.

- Texas Department of Insurance
  1-800-252-3439
  www.tdi.state.tx.us
  Helps parents of children with disabilities who have insurance problems. Offers “What Texans With Disabilities Should Know About Insurance,” a free booklet explaining the rights of Texans with disabilities. To order the booklet, call 1-800-599-7467.

- Health Insurance Premium Payment Reimbursement Program (HIPP)
  See page 11.

Estate and Financial Plans for Special Needs

Trust funds are private arrangements made by the families of children with disabilities. Trust funds may take many different forms.

Parent support groups can usually provide information and sources of help in establishing trust funds. For further information, call your attorney or Estate Planning for Persons with Disabilities, Steve Rhatigan, 281-364-7211, www.stemark.com
Government programs

Your child may qualify for a number of programs offered by federal, state or local government agencies. It is important to fill out an application even if there is a long waiting list.

**Acronyms For State Agencies**
HHSC – Health and Human Services Commission
TxDADS – Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services
TxDSHS – Texas Department of State Health Services
TxDARS – Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services
Legacy (previous) Agencies
MHMRA – Mental Health and Mental Retardation Authority

**Social Security programs**

**Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**
1-800-772-1213
www.ssa.gov/disability/
Supplemental Security Income (SSI) provides monthly assistance for children with disabilities. The amount paid is based on your family income, the number of people in your family and the severity of the disability. Your child can receive up to approximately $550 a month. Even if your child receives as little as $1 of SSI, the child also qualifies for Medicaid.

**SSI for Low-Weight and Premature Infants**
Many very low birth-weight babies and premature infants can be eligible for SSI benefits and Medicaid from the date of “Intent to File” (also referred to as the “protected filing date”) to the date of discharge from the hospital.

The people answering the SSI 800 number may not be familiar with this program, so rely on your local Social Security Administration office for help. During your first call, state your “intent to file” for benefits. This will give you the earliest possible eligibility date.

**Medicaid Programs**

**Medicaid, HHSC**
For local office address, call 713-767-2000
Title XIX of the Social Security Act provides certain medical benefits for families with low income or people with disabilities. To qualify for Medicaid in Texas, your child must meet at least one of the following criteria:
Financial assistance – government

• Receive SSI from Social Security;
• Qualify for benefits through the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) based on low family income;
• Qualify under the Medically Needy Program (page 11); or
• Receive assistance from one of the three Medicaid Waiver programs: MDCP (page 13), CLASS (page 14) or HCS (page 14). These three programs are one type of Medicaid waiver program that waives the family-income requirement and counts the child’s income to qualify for Medicaid.

STAR Program (Medicaid Managed Care)
Mothers and children in Harris and surrounding counties who qualify for Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) receive their Medicaid benefits through the Medicaid Managed Care program known as STAR. The STAR Program offers the choice of selecting one of the STAR health maintenance organizations (HMOs). From these choices, the member is required to select a primary care provider (PCP) who coordinates the member’s health care. The STAR program includes children with disabilities who are not on SSI.

STAR+PLUS (Medicaid Managed Care)
Children with disabilities in Harris County and surrounding counties who receive SSI may participate in the STAR+PLUS HMOs or select traditional, fee-for-service Medicaid. The HCS, MDCP, and CLASS programs do not participate in STAR+PLUS. Children with disabilities who have primary insurance through a private insurance provider and secondary Medicaid coverage may choose not to participate in STAR+PLUS.
Texas Health Steps, TxDSHS
Children and Pregnant Women
If your child qualifies for Medicaid, the child also qualifies for Texas Health Steps, which provides free medical screening exams, dental services and case management. For help finding a provider call:
Harris and Other Counties: 1-877-TH-STEMS

Comprehensive Care Program (CCP)
The Comprehensive Care Program is an extension of Texas Health Steps for children under age 21. Services not normally covered by Medicaid can be covered if your medical provider obtains prior authorization or can document on the claim form that a medical necessity requires the services or equipment.
Examples of some covered services include unlimited prescriptions for children under age 21, RN or LVN services, medically necessary supplies, such as equipment for tube feeding, diapers for older children, and therapy services.

Note: Medicaid and CSHCN pay for diapers and wipes if they are considered “medically necessary” for children over age 4. Sometimes Medicaid approves diapers for children between the ages of 2 and 4, depending on the type of disability and its severity. First, ask your child’s physician to write a letter of “medical necessity” and a prescription for “incontinent supplies,” not diapers. Then have the prescription faxed or mailed to a medical equipment supplier who can take care of the paperwork.
The supplier will submit the request to Medicaid for you. For more information and to order from a local supplier, call:

Texas Children’s Hospital Home Health
832-824-2400.
1919 S. Braeswood
Houston, TX 77030

Medco Medical & Hospital Supply
1-800-245-3816
4300 W. 12th St.
Houston, TX 77055
**Health Insurance Premium Payment Reimbursement Program (HIPP)**
1-800-440-0493

HIPP is a Medicaid program that pays the cost of insurance premiums, co-insurance, deductibles and other cost sharing. HIPP will reimburse the health-insurance premiums of payroll deductions for Medicaid-eligible persons, but only *when Medicaid determines it would be cost effective*.

The advantage of this program is that members of your family who are not eligible for Medicaid will be covered under your private health insurance plan.

If your Medicaid benefits are provided through the STAR or STAR+PLUS program, you can apply for the HIPP program only if you are a member of the Texas Health Network.

**Medically Needy Program (MNP), HHSC**
The Medically Needy Program (MNP) is an option under Texas Medicaid. Families who meet Medicaid assets requirements, but whose income is *too high for regular Medicaid*, can “spend down” into Medicaid eligibility using the family medical bills.

The spend-down amount works much like a deductible amount for a private health insurance policy. A spend-down amount is calculated for each month that you have medical expenses. A case can be set up for the month you apply or for the three months before the application month. You must renew MNP eligibility every 30 days.

*Note:* This program can be complicated. Be persistent. If the case worker is not familiar with MNP, ask for a supervisor.

**Children’s Health Insurance Plan, CHIP - HHSC**
1-800-647-6558

The Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is designed for families who earn too much money to qualify for Medicaid health care, yet cannot afford to buy private insurance. Families may pay monthly premiums and co-pays. There is an income limit and an assets test.

*Note:* Also apply for CSHCN Program that will be secondary insurance with CHIP. See page 12.
Financial assistance – government

Children with Special Health Care Needs Division (CSHCN), TxDSHS
To apply, call 713-767-3111, 1-800-252-8023
www.dshs.state.tx.us/cshcn

CSHCN provides health care benefits, family support services and case management to children with special health care needs (chronic illness and/or medically-based disabilities) who are residents of Texas. In addition, the family must meet specific income limits (except for case management, any income), assets and residency requirements. The CSHCN income limits are slightly higher than Medicaid (SSI) and the same as CHIP. CSHCN can be used as secondary insurance with Medicaid, CHIP and private insurance. There is a waiting list for health care benefits and family support services based on urgent need and severity, plus time spent on the waiting list.

Once eligible for services, a child may receive treatment and obtain equipment or supplies through a group of physicians, therapists and other providers enrolled in the CSHCN service program. CSHCN will require you to apply and obtain denial letters from Medicaid and the Medically Needy Program (page 11) of TxDADS before CSHCN will pay for services. This process can be complicated, so be persistent and rely on the CSHCN medical social workers for help.

If your family’s income is too high to qualify, ask about the “spend-down” program. If your child is on Medicaid, you may still want to apply for CSHCN because CSHCN may pay for a few services Medicaid will not cover.

The Insurance Premium Payment Assistance (IPPA) is a program that allows CSHCN to reimburse families for insurance premiums paid to provide health insurance for a CSHCN client. To be eligible for IPPA, a client must have CSHCN eligibility and any type of third party resource.

For parent-to-parent case management for families of CSHCN see Parent Education Project on page 5. See note under CCP on page 10.

In Home and Family Support (IH&FS), TxDADS
IH&FS provides the funding for yearly grants of up to $2,500 (MHMRA) or $1,200 (CCS-TxDADS) to individuals or their families. The family may receive assistance to access services related to their child’s disability that maintains or improves their child’s ability to live at home/community. The grant monies can be used for specialized equipment, home modifications, medical services, personnel attendants, training and respite. There are income limits (much higher that Medicaid), and co-pays may apply. The two following departments under DADS have the IH&FS program.

Note: Waiting lists.
**Financial assistance – government**

**1. IH&FS Mental Retardation Services Department (MRSD), TxDADS**

Under contract to MHMRAs

Serves children under age 4 who have one area of developmental delay, mental or physical; after age 4, children and adults with mental retardation, autism, Asperger’s, Rett’s, and pervasive developmental disorder. If your child after age 4 does not have the above diagnoses, request MRSD transfer your child’s name with original application date to the IH&FS program under DADS Community Care Services.

MHMRA of Harris Co., 713-970-7799 and 713-970-7691; Texana MHMR Center (Austin, Colorado, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Waller) 281-342-0090, Tri-County (Montgomery, Liberty, Walker) 936-521-6226; Gulf Coast Center (Brazoria, Galveston) 1-800-643-0967 or 281-585-7490.

**Notes:** Waiting list. This program could be eliminated and combine with IH&FS, CCS-DADS see below.

**2. IH&FS Community Care Services, TxDADS**

713-696-8053

Serves people over age 4 with physical disabilities, with or without developmental delay.

**Note:** Short waiting list.

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**Medicaid Waivers Programs**

**1. Medically Dependent Children Program (MDCP) Community Care Services, TxDADS**

1-877-438-5658, 713-967-7597

[www.dads.state.tx.us/services](http://www.dads.state.tx.us/services)

This Medicaid waiver program provides qualified children with a variety of services that allow the children to live at home. MDCP provides respite, adaptive aids and supports to enable eligible children to participate in child care. To qualify, only the child’s income is considered. A physician must agree that your child meets medical necessity criteria for admission to a nursing home. MDCP is limited to a certain number of children on a first-come, first-served basis. Once accepted, your child also qualifies for Medicaid benefits.

**Note:** Long waiting list.

A number of MDCP slots are reserved for children who reside in Texas nursing homes, enabling them to return home with support. The MDCP ends when a child reaches age 21. After that the Community Based Alternative (CBA) continues most services, but the change from MDCP to CBA is not automatic. You must apply for CBA separately, but the eligible child will access CBA services directly.
Financial assistance – government

without being placed on a waiting list. State that the child is reaching 21 and on the MDCD. For more information, call 713-692-1635 (intake line).

2. Community Living Assistance and Support Services (CLASS)
   Community Care Services, TxDADS
   www.dads.state.tx.us/services
   To be placed on a waiting list, call 1-877-438-5658 (state office); for information only, call Vita-Living, Inc., 713-271-5795.
   CLASS provides home and community services such as therapy and personal-attendant care, limited nursing care, job training, daily living skills, adaptive aids, psychological counseling, home medication and respite care for persons with disabilities other than the primary diagnosis of mental retardation.
   CLASS is funded by Medicaid through a waiver that allows participants to live in the community with a degree of freedom and choice. Qualification is based on approved needs.
   Applicants for CLASS services must have demonstrated needs for and be able to benefit from habilitation assistance and support services. Once accepted, the child also qualifies for regular Medicaid benefits.
   Note: Long waiting list. Program is not statewide.

3. Home and Community-Based Services (HCS), Mental Retardation Services Dept. (MRSD), TxDADS
   Under contract to MHMRAs
   www.dads.state.tx.us/services
   The HCS program is a Medicaid waiver program that provides services to individuals with mental retardation who either live with their families, in their own home, in a foster/companion care setting or in a residence with not more that four individuals who receive services. HSC services include residential assistance, day habilitation, respite, nursing, attendant care, adaptive aids, counseling, therapy, minor home modification, and supported employment. Call for eligibility. Telephone numbers:
   Harris County
   For waiting list, 713-970-7799
   For information, 713-970-7649
   Gulf Coast Center – MR Division, 1-800-643-0967 (in-take) or 281-585-7490
   Texana MHMRA, 281-342-0090 (intake)
   Tri-County MHMRA, 936-521-6226
The TxHmL program is one type of Medicaid waiver that waives a Medicaid requirement so that a list of services such as respite can be delivered by someone other that a licensed practitioner (doctor, etc.) and paid by Medicaid. Therefore, the family’s income must meet eligibility for Medicaid to qualify. The TxHmL program provides essential services and support so that Texans with mental retardation can continue to live with their families or in their homes in the community. TxHmL services are intended to supplement. TxHmL is limited to an annual cost of $10,000 per participant. This is a new program and MHMRAs contacts families from the HCS waiting list.

MHMRA of Harris Co. - 713-970-8385
Texana MHMRA - 281-342-0090
MHMR Gulf Coast Center - 1-800-643-0967
Tri-County MHMRA - 936-521-6226

PHC provides non-skilled, non-technical, medically related personal care, household tasks, meal preparation, escort, shopping and assistance with self-administered medication. A physician must order the service and a nurse must supervise delivery. There is an income limit, and your child must be Medicaid-eligible. A case manager will assess the needs to determine eligibility and service delivery.

The Texas Commission for the Blind provides an array of services to blind and legally blind children. The services include eye restoration services, eye medical care, parent counseling, educational and training opportunities, and case management.
Financial assistance – government

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services, TxDARS
Hear-Say (Houston Council)
713-917-0062 (V/TTY)

The mission of TCDHH is to eliminate communication barriers and guarantee equal access. The Commission provides communication access, information and referral and an early-intervention program.

Non-educational Funding (Non-ed)
Local School District

Non-educational funds are appropriated to school districts to provide non-educational community-based support services to certain students and their families. Funds are available only for eligible students with disabilities who would have to be placed in or who would remain in resident facilities primarily for educational reasons without access to non-educational funds.

Support services include in-home family support, respite care, attendant care and family dynamic training. Non-ed funds must be discussed outside the ARD process and cannot be used for educational purposes. Contact your special education department chairperson at the district level. Application required.
Some listings in this section are funded through the Early Childhood Intervention program (ECI), which offers intervention services for children with developmental delay and visual or auditory impairment from birth to age 3. Services include interdisciplinary evaluation, therapy, educational training, parent training, counseling and case management. Services fees are based on family’s income and can be paid by Medicaid, CHIP or CSHCN.

ECI programs are divided by zip codes. To find an ECI program in your area, call 1-800-250-2246, or go to www.dars.state.tx.us/ecis.

This is not intended to be a complete listing of service providers. The centers listed here have come to the attention of the network. No recommendation is implied.

**Texas Children’s Hospital**
6621 Fannin • Houston, TX 77030
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Department for Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Therapy: 832-826-2102
www.texaschildrenshospital.org

Health Centers:  
- Cy-Fair - 281-469-4688
- Clear Lake - 281-282-1900
- Sugar Land - 281-494-7010
- West Houston - 281-558-6491
- The Woodlands - 936-321-0808

Home Health: 832-824-2400
Accepts Medicaid, CSHCN and CHIP.

**Bay Area Rehabilitation – ECI Program (BARC)**
5313 Decker Dr.
Baytown, TX 77520
281-838-4477
Serves certain zip codes in Harris and Chambers Counties. Accepts Medicaid and CSHCN.

**BACH Rehabilitation – ECI**
120 Hospital Dr.
Angleton, TX 77515
979-849-2447

**CARE Group**
9299 Kirby Dr.
Houston, TX 77054
713-383-2100
Accepts Medicaid and CHIP.
Therapy

Cornerstone ECI Program
4101 South Medford Dr.
Lufkin, TX 75901
1-877-205-3630
Serves Liberty and parts of Montgomery Co.

ECI of MHMRA of Harris Co. Infant Program
Infant Program – ECI Program
• 6125 Hillcroft, Houston, TX 77081
  713-970-4800
• 6032 Airline, Houston, TX 77076
  713-970-4900
Serves certain zip codes in Harris County.

Keep Pace Infant Program – ECI Program
Harris County Department of Education
11920 Walters Road
Houston, TX 77067
281-397-4000
Serves 15 independent school districts in parts of Harris and Montgomery Co. according to zip codes.

Kids Developmental Therapy
6109 Maple St. (home health)
8021 Bissonnet (clinic)
Houston, TX 77074
713-668-6690 (home health) or 713-774-5435 (clinic)
Accepts Medicaid, CSHCN and CHIP.

MedCare Professional Group
12371 S. Kirkwood
Stafford, TX 77477
713-779-9300
Accepts Medicaid.

Memorial Hermann Health Care System Rehabilitation Services
6411 Fannin
Houston, TX 77030
713-704-1545
Accepts Medicaid, CSHCN and CHIP.
**Therapy**

**Occupational Therapy Services for Children**
9810 FM 1960 Bypass, Ste. 190
Humble, TX 77338
281-446-0371
Accepts Medicaid and CHIP.

**Project GROW – ECI Program**
3634 Glenn Lakes, Ste. 200
Missouri City, TX 77459
281-208-6600
Serves parts of Harris and Fort Bend Counties and all of Waller County.

**Project Tyke – ECI Program**
Katy Independent School District
1736 Katyland
Katy, TX 77493
281-237-6647

**Pros Pediatric Home Health Care Inc.**
210 Spring Hill Dr., Ste. 155
Spring, TX 77386
281-364-9695, 888-364-9695
Accepts Medicaid.

**Shriners Hospital for Children**
6977 Main St.
Houston, TX 77030
713-797-1616
Application required; services are free.

**Special Kids Care**
1225 North Loop W., Ste. 520
Houston, TX 77008
713-812-8822
Accepts Medicaid.

**The Therapy SPOT**
8619 Broadway, Ste. 200
Pearland, TX 77584
281-485-4818
Accepts Medicaid.

**The Therapy Village**
10804 Huffmeister, Ste. D
Houston, TX 77065
281-477-9500
Accepts Medicaid.
**Therapy**

**United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston, Inc. – ECI Program**  
4550 Bissonnet, Ste. 340  
Bellaire, TX 77401  
713-838-9050  
Serves certain zip codes in Harris and Fort Bend Counties.

**University of Texas Medical Branch ECI – LAUNCH**  
301 University Blvd.  
Galveston, TX 77555-1025  
409-772-7717 or 281-534-6755  
Serves Galveston County and parts of Harris County.

**Winter and Associates Pediatric Rehabilitation**  
9900 Westpark, Ste. 100  
Houston, TX 77063  
713-528-3030  
Accepts Medicaid.

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**Hippotherapy**

Hippotherapy is therapeutic horseback riding for children with disabilities.

**CARE Group**  
(Stables at the S. Houston Equestrian Center)  
9299 Kirby Dr.  
Houston, TX 77054  
713-383-2100

**Ride On, Inc.**  
(Stables in Richmond)  
2221 Winner Foster Rd.  
Richmond, TX 77469  
Contact: Hannah Mae Brown, 281-342-7273

**Self-Improvement through Riding Education (SIRE)**  
24161 Spring Dr.  
Hockley, TX 77447  
281-356-7588  
www.sire-htec.org  
Also in Missouri City and Spring.
The word *respite* means “a break.” Give yourself a break now and then to continue doing things with your spouse and family. Occasional help can make your family life easier and free you from some responsibilities when you need to get away for awhile.

This is not intended to be a complete list of service providers or to imply recommendations but simply to provide information about centers that have come to the Network's attention. Seek daycare recommendations from parent groups or call:

**Collaborative for Children**  
(Initiatives for Children)  
713-600-1100, 713-600-1234  
www.collabforchildren.org  
Child care resource and referral.

**The ARC of Greater Houston**  
3737 Dacoma, Ste. E  
Houston, TX 77092  
713-957-1600  
Serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.  
Various types of programs.

**Hermann Respite House**  
Hermann Children’s Hospital  
6411 Fannin  
Houston, TX 77030-1501  
713-704-2394  
Application required. Medically fragile, developmental delay.

**Respite Programs, MRSD – DADS**  
**Under contract to MHMRAs**  
The Respite Programs offer in-home and out-of-home respite for families of children with mental retardation (with or without multiple disabilities), autism and PDD. Out of home respite offers 24-hour care for up to 30 days a year. There are separate applications for out-of-home and in-home respite.  
To access respite, eligibility determination is required by the MHMRAs.  
**Note:** Possible waiting list.
Respite care

Respite Program of MHMR of Harris County
713-970-7617 or 713-970-7621
Bayshores House Houston

MHMR – Gulf Coast Center – MR Division
1-800-615-4763, 281-585-7460

Texana MHMRA Services
281-208-6672
Contact: Annie Autry
Has contracts with several community providers.

Tri-County MHMRA
936-521-6226 (intake)
Provides funding only, apply through intake.

United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston, Inc., Respite Care Program
4500 Bissonnet, Ste. 340
Bellaire, TX 77401
713-838-9050, ext. 307
Registration required, certain restrictions.

Montgomery County Respite Services
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston
731 West Davis
Conroe, TX 77301
936-441-0789 ext. 472
888-825-9682 ext. 472

Several churches are offering monthly respite in the evenings or on Saturdays. See section on Church Ministries.
Your best advice may come from other parents. Parents can give you practical, day-to-day information about how to care for your child and find needed resources. In parent support groups, you will discover that you’re not alone – parents generously share what they’ve learned and pass along personal solutions.

**The Houston Parent Information Network (HPIN)**
4502 Woodside St.
Houston, TX 77023
713-926-2580

Currently meets at the Children’s Museum of Houston, 1500 Binz. Call for time and current location.

From its founding in 1992 as the Houston Cerebral Palsy Association, HPIN has evolved into a network for parents of children with multiple disabilities or impairment and children who are medically fragile.

The network is a non-profit volunteer organization of Houston parents who educate families, professionals and the community about the abilities of their children with special needs. Parents of a child with any disability are welcome.

- **Monthly parent meetings** and educational programs for information and support.
- **Publications**, including this guide and quarterly newsletter.
- **Parent-to-parent support.** Call Elaine Hime 713-926-2580 or 713-743-5435.

**Angelman Syndrome Foundation, Houston Area**
Texas Regional Representative
Eugene and Viola Guerrero
281-489-3100, 713-441-1097
www.angelman.org

**The ARC of Greater Houston**
3737 Dacoma, Ste. E
Houston, TX 77092
713-957-1600
www.thearcofgreaterhouston.com

An array of services. Parent education and support groups, including Familias Hispanas del ARC. Call for times and locations. Newsletter available. Several ARC Chapters in Harris and surrounding counties. Also see Right to Learn Program, page 28.
## Parent support

### The ARC of Fort Bend County

281-494-5959  
[www.arcoffortbend.org](http://www.arcoffortbend.org)

An array of services, parent education and support groups, education advocacy. Newsletter available.

### The ARC of the Gulf Coast

281-388-1161  
[www.arcgc.com](http://www.arcgc.com)

An array of services, committed to creating opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

### ASPIE-Asperger’s Syndrome

281-240-0663  
[www.aspieinfo.com](http://www.aspieinfo.com)

Meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Williams Trace Baptist Church, 16755 Southwest Fwy., Sugar Land. Groups also for adults and teens.

### Attention Deficit Disorders Association (ADDA), Southern Region

281-897-0982  
[www.adda-sr.org](http://www.adda-sr.org)

Several chapters in Houston and surrounding counties. Newsletter available.

### Autism Society of America-Area Chapters

#### Greater Houston Chapter

713-513-7575  
[www.houstonchapterasa.org](http://www.houstonchapterasa.org)

Call for meeting dates and times; meets at the UT Mental Sciences Institute, 1300 Moursund. Newsletter available.

#### Northwest Houston Chapter

281-686-0103  

Meetings are held the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Graceview Baptist Church, 25510 Tomball Parkway, Tomball.

#### Texas Gulf Coast Chapter

[www.ASA-TGCC.org](http://www.ASA-TGCC.org)

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m., except for December at the United Way Building, 1300A Bay Area Blvd., Houston. Newsletter available.
Parent support

Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Family Alliance, Inc. (CCFA)
713-270-4700
www.candle.org
Texas Children's Cancer Center, contact Parent Consultant Carol Benefield at 832-822-1415.

Down Syndrome Association of Houston
713-682-7237
www.dsah.org
Meets the second Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the West Gray Adaptive Sports Center, 1475 West Gray. Newsletter available. Several support and play groups in the Houston area.

El Grupo de Apoyo
713-921-3036
Contact: E. Lopez
Meets the last Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Chicano Family Center, 6605 Rookin St.

Epilepsy Association of Houston/Gulf Coast
2650 Fountain View, Ste. 316
Houston, TX 77057
713-789-6295
www.epilepsyfoundation.org/setexas
Educational and parent support meetings. Newsletter available.

Exceptional Parents of Little Angels with Special Needs
713-643-4035, 281-464-3799
Contact: Denise Avila, Markie Aquire
Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at the Fairmont Park Library, 4330 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena.

Family to Family Network Inc.
13150 FM 529, Ste. 106
Houston, TX 77041
713-466-6304
www.familytofamilynetwork.org
Contact: Jill Dietrich
F2F - Clear Lake
Provides information, training, referral and support to families of children with disabilities. Newsletter available.

Families for Early Autism Treatment (FEAT)
281-348-7067
www.feathouston.org
Meets the second Thursday of odd numbered months at 7 p.m.; check for location. Newsletter available.
Parent support

Houston Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments (HAPVI)
281-286-9820, 832-687-7694
Contact: Alison Rickerl
www.hapvi.org
Monthly meetings, call for dates, times and location.

Houston Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health
281-335-5600
Contact: Barbara Sewell
www.houstonfederation.org
Information, referral, education, and advocacy parent groups.

Mom to Mom
281-412-7284
www.momtomomsupport.com
Supports moms with newly diagnosed baby with a disability or illness.

Muscular Dystrophy Association Parent Support
5615 Kirby, Ste. 500
Houston, TX 77005
713-522-3941
Contact: Dalia Martinez
Meets the third Wednesday of the month except July at 10 a.m.
www.mdausa.org

Osteogenesis Imperfecta
713-218-8839
Contact: Madison Trafton
www.oif.org
Check website or call for meeting schedule.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Metropolitan Houston
713-970-3455
www.namimetrohouston.org
Several chapters of NAMI in the Houston area offer support groups. Call for dates, times and location. Newsletter available.
Parent support

Side by Side Community Parent Support Team
281-332-9270
Contact: Renee Farrow-Bennett
Monthly meetings, call for dates, times and location
Sponsored by the ARC of the Gulf Coast.

Special Kids Inc. (SKI)/Grassroots Consortium
713-734-5355, 713-643-9576
Contact: Rose Ferguson
www.specialkidsinc.org
Meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Outreach Baptist Church at 5055 Belfort, Houston, TX 77033.

Special Kids, Special Parents – Katy
281-371-0086
Contact: Brenda Nelson
www.specialkidskaty.com
Meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Kingsland Baptist Church, Burns Building, 20555 Kingsland Blvd., Katy.

Special Kids, Special Parents – Pearland
713-436-8483
Contact: Peggy Howell
Meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at Sablatura Middle School, 2201 North Galveston, Pearland.

Spina Bifida Association of Houston Gulf Coast
713-473-8035
www.sbahgc.org
Call for times and locations. Newsletter available.

Texas Association of Parents of Children with Visual Impairments
281-842-7030, 1-866-55TAPVI
Contact: Alaine Hinds
www.tapvi.org
Monthly meeting, call for dates, times and location.

Tzu-Chi Support for Families of Children with Special Needs
713-970-8385
Meets on the second Saturday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., 6200 Corporate, Tzu-Chi Foundation.
Parent support

Williams Syndrome
Contact: Gordon Biescar
281-376-1626
www.wsf.org
National organization headquarters in Detroit, Michigan: 1-800-806-1871.

Disability Law Research Project (DLRP)
2323 S. Shepherd Blvd., Ste. 1000
Houston, TX 77019
1-800-949-4232
www.dlrp.org
The DLRP is a resource on the American Disabilities Act (ADA) related laws and making information technology accessible to people with disabilities for all audiences. Expert staff are available to provide training and publications and respond to your inquires.

Legal Aid Clinic, University of Houston Law Center
713-743-2094
Serves families whose income meets federal poverty guidelines. Takes a limited number of cases.
**TRANSPORTATION**

**Harris County Coordinated Transportation Services**
713-313-1765
www.ss.hctx.net
Subsidized transportation for the elderly and people with disabilities for those living outside the Metro service area.

**Medicaid Transportation**
1-877-633-8747
Transportation assistance for medical appointments can be obtained for those who receive Medicaid; mileage reimbursement for Medicaid appointments.

**Metrolift**
713-225-0119
Metrolift offers transportation services for mentally and physically disabled persons. Minimal fee.

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**EQUIPMENT**

**Disabled Children’s Relief Fund (DCRF)**
P.O. Box 89
Freeport, NY 11520
516-377-1605
www.dcrf.com
Provides equipment, prostheses and rehabilitative services through grants.

**Project MEND**
8305 Telephone Rd.
Houston, TX 77061
1-888-903-6363, 713-641-0777
www.projectmend.org

**Toy Tech**
United Cerebral Palsy of Greater Houston
4500 Bissonnet, Ste. 340
Bellaire, TX 77401
713-838-9050
Toy lending library and playgroups.
Camp Children’s Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP)
(Camp located near Comfort, Texas)
P.O. Box 27086
San Antonio, TX 78227
210-292-3566
www.campcamp.org
Provides a wide range of recreational, rehabilitative and respite services for children with disabilities and their families.

Camp for All
(Camp located near Brenham, Texas)
Houston office: 713-686-5666
www.campforall.org
Camp for All provides recreation, sports activities and retreats for children with disabilities and their families.

Verne Cox Multi-Purpose Center
5200 Burke Road
Pasadena, TX 77504
281-487-1755
Verne Cox is a recreational sports center for people of all ages with mental and physical disabilities.

West Gray Adaptive Sports Center
1475 West Gray
Houston, TX 77019
713-284-1973
Provides recreational activities for children with disabilities.

Special Olympics
4140 Directors Row, Ste B
Houston, TX 77092
713-290-0049
Provides sports activities for people with disabilities.
Recreation

Texas Lion’s Camp for Physical Disabilities
P.O. Box 290247
Kerrville, TX 78029
830-896-8500
www.lionscamp.com
The Texas Lions Camp provides free outdoor camping experiences to children with physical disabilities.

TIRR Sports
713-797-5997
Coordinates a variety of sports activities (swimming, kayaking, basketball, etc.) and distributes a calendar of these events to people with disabilities.

Texas Adaptive Aquatics - Watersports for children and adults with disabilities
Sports Center - Lake Houston
103 Page Lane
Huffman Center
281-324-4653
www.taasports.org

CHURCH MINISTRIES

Church Ministries for Families of Children with Disabilities
Churches offer different types of programs such as special Sunday school classes, volunteer buddies, respite, or parent groups. Contact churches below for information. Special Life Network has a listing of churches at www.speciallife.org.

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Office of CCE, Ministry with Persons with Disabilities
713-741-8793
Contact: Charlene Katra
www.diogh.org
Check with your local parish and ask for the Director of Religious Education (DRE) for information on church programs.
Bureau of Jewish Education  
5603 S. Braeswood, Houston 77096  
713-729-7000  
Special education resource for Jewish children, includes parent support groups, consultation and special education classes.

Chapelwood Methodist, Circle of Friends  
11140 Greenbay St, Houston 77024  
Contact: Liza Kutner  
713-465-3467  
www.chapelwood.org

The Church of St. John the Divine, Episcopal, Wonder-FULLY Made  
2450 River Oaks Blvd, Houston 77019  
Contact: Brooke Nyberg  
713-354-2240  
www.sjd.org

Crosswood Baptist Church  
6565 Research Forest Dr., The Woodlands 77381  
Contact: Chris Barfield  
936-273-5683  
www.crbctw.org

First Methodist Church, Joy Ministry  
1320 Main Street, Houston 77002  
10570 Westpark, Houston 77042  
Contact: Tanya Sterling  
713-652-2999  
www.fmhouston.com

First Presbyterian Church, WinGS  
5300 Main Street, Houston 77004  
713-620-6518  
www.fpchouston.org

Graceview Baptist Church, The Joy Ministry  
25510 Tomball Parkway, Tomball 77375  
Contact: Denise Briley  
281-351-4979  
www.thejoyministry.org
Church Ministries

**Grace Crossing Community Church of Christ, JORGE**
1021 Sawdust Rd. Spring 77380
Contact: Roberta Roper
832-928-4711
www.gracecrossing.net

**Grace Fellowship United Methodist**
2655 South Mason Road, Katy 77450
Contact: Amy Zimmerman
281-646-1903
www.whatisgrace.org

**Grace Presbyterian Church, Grace Place**
10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston 77042
713-267-5096
Contact: Deb Tucker
www.gpch.org

**Lakewood Church, Champions Club**
3700 Southwest Freeway, Houston, 77027
713-491-1403
Contact: Gloria Vasquez
www.lakewood.cc

**Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, The Oasis**
11612 Memorial Drive, Houston 77024
713-782-1710, ext. 117
Contact: Rachel Poysky
www.mdpc.org

**Memorial Drive United Methodist**
12955 Memorial Drive, Houston 77079
Contact: Donna Reed
713-468-8356
www.mdumc.org

**St. Luke’s United Methodist**
3471 Westheimer, Houston 77027
Contact: Christy Heno
713-402-5040
www.stlukesmethodist.org
Church Ministries

**Sugar Creek Baptist Church, The Open Door**  
13333 Southwest Freeway, Ste.200, Sugar Land 77478  
Contact: Barbara Waldhuber  
281-242-2858  
www.sugarcreek.net

**Tallowood Baptist Church, Tallowood Treasures**  
555 Tallowood, Houston 77024  
Contact: Carol Kleckner  
713-468-8241  
www.tallowood.org

**The Woodlands United Methodist Church, Special Blessing**  
2200 Lake Woodlands Dr., The Woodlands 77380  
Contact: Debbie Glass 281-297-5923, children  
Lisa Thompson 281-466-8620, youth and adults  
www.twumc.org

**WoodsEdge Community Church, Special Hearts**  
3333 South Panther Creek Dr., The Woodlands, 77381  
Contact: Heather Blackburn at 281-364-0415,  
www.woodsedge.org