

# Michigan Family Connections Newsletter

Summer 2018

## MI F2F LAUNCHES THEIR NEW WEBSITE

In June 2018, MI Family to Family unveiled their updated website. Created with family input, the look and function of the website is simpler and easier to use. The new website highlights the purpose and work of MI Family to Family, as well as having an event calendar and archive of past newsletters. It features a family story section submitted by families in Michigan who share the challenges and joys of their experiences.

The most exciting feature is a new and improved resource directory. Visitors can now search by keyword or county to connect with state, regional and local resources for families of children and young adults with special health care needs. With the help of the [Family Leadership Network](#), MI Family to Family will be adding more organizations and resources as time goes on. Take a moment to check it out. We think you'll like what you see!

[www.f2fmichigan.org](http://www.f2fmichigan.org)



*A newsletter  
for families of  
children and  
youth with  
special health  
care needs, and  
professionals who  
help them.  
Connecting you  
with information  
and news you  
can use!*

**A quarterly publication  
brought to you by the  
Family Center for Children  
and Youth with Special  
Health Care Needs and  
Michigan Family to Family  
Health Information Center**

## A PLACE TO PLAY FOR ALL CHILDREN

Playing is a fundamental part of childhood. Many of us have fond memories of our playground days. Many school yards, community centers, and neighborhood parks offer fun and exciting areas built for running, climbing, and swinging. Not only is playing fun, it helps children with their physical and social development.

Finding a playground that is accessible for all children can be a challenge for families of children with special health care needs. More and more communities are looking to create play areas and structures that meet the needs of all children, including those with disabilities. Often these play areas are created because parents of children with special needs wanted places that their children can explore the joy of playing together with their peers.

The benefits of building playgrounds that can be enjoyed by all children goes far beyond just the children that have additional needs. Giving all children the chance to play together and have fun helps build inclusive communities.

Accessibleplayground.net offers an international directory of accessible playgrounds. You can search within Michigan, or outside of Michigan when traveling. <https://www.accessibleplayground.net/playground-directory/?cn-s=&cn-cat=38>

If you know of an accessible playground not listed, you can even add it to their directory to help other families find safe, fun places for children to play.



## VOTER RIGHTS SEMINARS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Join community conversations presented by the Self-Advocates of Michigan (SAM), MI-DSA, and the Developmental Disabilities Council at various locations across the state.

Topics include:

- Your Rights as a Voter with a Disability
- Why Your Vote Matters
- What to Expect at the Polls

All locations are accessible, on or close to a bus line, and free.

Advanced registration is required.

VISIT LINK TO REGISTER: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JLPDK8X>

For more information or help registering contact Rachel Bentley at 517-284-7290 or at [bentleyR@michigan.gov](mailto:bentleyR@michigan.gov).



# DIAPER RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS

## Insurance Coverage for Diapers:

- Private health insurance may cover diapers for some diagnoses.
- Medicaid and Medicaid Managed Care plans may cover diapers with a doctor's prescription.
- J&B Medical Supply Co. is the contracted supplier for Medicaid. They will help you obtain the prescription from your doctor, and verify insurance coverage. J&B offers free samples to try sizes and styles before you buy.
  - ◇ J&B's contact info: 800-737-0045
  - ◇ <https://www.jandbmedical.com/michigan-medicaid-diaper-and-incontinence-supplies-program/>
- Pampers go all the way to a size 7 (over 41lbs.), and can be purchased on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Amazon Prime members get a 20% discount and free shipping on diaper subscriptions.
- After her child outgrew Pampers size 7, one mom found a great fit with Slimline briefs by Tranquility.
- Select Incontinence Products makes a pull-on that is less bulky and leaks less. It is carried by many supply companies.
- Search Michigan's 2-1-1 online database by zip code for sources for diapers and incontinence supplies in your area.

## Tips for getting insurance coverage for diapers:

- Persistence can really pay off. It may take some pushing on your part, but remember, you are your child's best advocate.
- If your insurance denies coverage for diapers, send a written request for reconsideration, along with a letter from your child's doctor explaining the medical necessity of diapers.
- Keep track of your child's training progress, this can be important information for getting coverage or appealing a denial.
- Some food pantries get diaper donations too, so it wouldn't hurt to check.
- The [Great Lakes Loan Closet](https://www.greatlakesloan.com) is a website where you can find free or loaner medical equipment and supplies. Some organizations listed also have diapers. It is worth checking out.

## Sources and tips if you self-pay for diapers:

- [Diaperbuys.com](https://www.diaperbuys.com) or 855-289-3427 is a division of J&B Medical that sells name brand diapers to customers without insurance coverage. Their specialists can help with fitting and provide free samples to try before you buy.
- If you have a Flexible Spending Account (FSA), check out the FSA store for diapers: <https://fsastore.com/>
- For a cloth option, look into WunderUnders at <https://www.facebook.com/WunderUnders/>
- <https://www.especialneeds.com/shop/bath-toilet-incontinence/swim-briefs.html>
- <http://www.sosecureproducts.com/>
- <http://www.theraquatics.com/hipster->

## Swim Diaper Suggestions:

\*This article was submitted by Amy Fontaine, Parent Consultant for Ottawa County Children's Special Health Care Services, member of the Family Leadership Network, and mom of 19 year old triplets. The valuable tips and suggestions were provided courtesy of parents in the Special Families' Corner Facebook group, a parent-to parent support group that welcomes any parent or caregiver raising special needs children in West Michigan, regardless of CSHCS enrollment.

Special Families' Corner  
For families raising children  
and youth with special needs.



## RESOURCE EXPO FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

The Michigan Army National Guard Resource Expo for Service Members and Veterans who have a family member with special needs will be hosted in Northern Michigan for the first time in this area!

There will be many local, state and national resources to assist you and your family along your journey. The event will take place on Saturday, September 15, 2018 from 10 AM until 2 PM, on the Drill Floor of the Traverse City Armory, 1402 Carlisle Rd, Traverse City, MI 49696.

This free event is open to ALL service members, veterans, and families.

To register or for more information go to:

<https://www.jointservicessupport.org/Events/EventDetails.aspx?Id=d2f05393-01a0-cd88-fcb1-11e883882564>



“If Your Actions Inspire Others To Dream More,  
Learn More, Do More and Become More,  
You Are a Leader” - John Quincy Adams

## MICHIGAN MEDICAID HEALTH PLAN COMMON FORMULARY STAKEHOLDER MEETING

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) invites the public to attend a stakeholder meeting on October 8, 2018, regarding the list of prescription drugs covered under Michigan’s Medicaid Health Plans. The meeting is from 9:30 a.m. to noon in the Lansing Community College West Campus Auditorium, 5708 Cornerstone Drive in Delta Township, near Lansing.

In 2016, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services developed the list of prescription drugs – known as a common formulary – to streamline drug coverage policies for Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries and providers. The prescription drugs are common across all contracted health plans for the department’s current Comprehensive Health Plan contract. The purpose of the stakeholder meeting is to provide an in-person meeting for the public to comment on the common formulary.

For more information about this meeting you can read the official press release here:

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2018/07/31/file\\_attachments/1047533/2018%2BCommon%2BFormulary%2BMeeting%2BPress%2BRelea](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MIDHHS/2018/07/31/file_attachments/1047533/2018%2BCommon%2BFormulary%2BMeeting%2BPress%2BRelea)



## UPCOMING PARENT MENTOR TRAINING

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs is proud to offer a training to parents/caregivers of children with special health care needs who would like to make a difference in the lives of others.

This training is open to all families who have a child with a medical, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition.

As a trained Parent Mentor, you will become a part of a statewide network of volunteer parents supporting one another, sharing resources, and helping to navigate various systems.

For more information or to be placed on an email list for future trainings etc., please call the Family Phone Line at 800-359-3722.



September 15, 2018—East Lansing

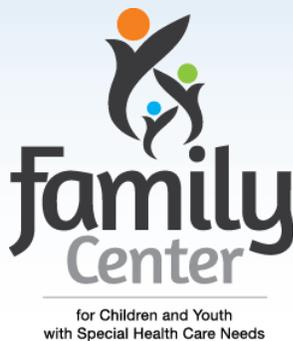
Click here to register:

[Parent Mentor Training](#)

Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center (MI F2F) is a federally funded project. They share information and resources on disability and health issues with families of children and youth with special health care needs. MI F2F also works with health and other professionals. MI F2F helps families make educated decisions and supports families to partner with professionals. They work to make services for children and youth with special health care needs better.



[www.f2fmichigan.org](http://www.f2fmichigan.org)



The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) is the statewide parent-directed center within Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The primary role of the Family Center is to offer emotional support, information and connections to community-based resources to families of children and youth with special health care needs, including all children who have, or are at an increased risk for: physical, developmental, behavioral or emotional conditions.

**Family Phone Line 800-359-3722**

**Disclaimer:** The Family Connections newsletter includes information and links to internet and other resources. These resources are for your consideration only and are not endorsed by the Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center, or our funders. The Michigan Family to Family Health Information Center is a project of the Michigan Public Health Institute. It is funded by Health Resources Services Administration Maternal and Child Health Bureau under Grant H84MC26214. The information or content and conclusions of the author should not be construed as the official policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. Furthermore, the information provided should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease, and is not a substitute for professional care. Please direct any questions through the Family Phone Line or MI F2F website listed above.