



The Bureau for Children with Medical Handicaps (BCMh)

What is BCMH?

BCMh is a tax-supported program of the Ohio Department of Health that helps children with special health care needs and their families. The program assists families in obtaining services to diagnose a potential handicapping condition (The Diagnostic Program) and assists with ongoing services for children with an eligible medical handicap (The Treatment Program).

Who is it for?

For both the diagnostic and treatment programs, children must be under the age of 21, live in Ohio, be a permanent U.S. resident, and be under the care of a BCMh-approved physician.

The Diagnostic Program assists families in obtaining an evaluation of a potentially handicapping condition regardless of the family's income.

The Treatment Program is for children who have been diagnosed as having an eligible medically handicapping condition. Families must meet financial eligibility guidelines.

Some examples of eligible conditions are:

Chronic Pulmonary Disease	Diabetes	Juvenile Arthritis
Cystic Fibrosis	Cancer	Cleft Lip/Palate
Cerebral Palsy	Hemophilia	Spina Bifida
Hearing Loss	Heart Defects	Seizure disorders

What services are available?

Examples of services that BCMh assists with:

Office visits to physicians	X-ray and lab	Physical therapy
Prescription Medicines	Dental Care	Surgery
Hearing Aids	Medical Supplies	Hospitalization

Public Health Nursing Services including home visits, service coordination, health assessment and education, developmental screening, advocacy and referral to appropriate health care providers

Nutrition Services such as medical nutrition therapy including assessment, nutrition counseling, special formula assistance, follow-up and monitoring, and referrals to appropriate services

Are there any limits?

BCMh requires that third party resources such as Medicaid or health insurance pay first. The bureau supplements insurance when families have inadequate coverage, such as exclusions for pre-existing conditions or large deductibles.

How do I apply?

Families or agencies may apply to BCMh by contacting a public health nurse at their local health department, the child's physician or the BCMh office at the Ohio Department of Health. Parents may call toll free to 1-800 755-GROW (4769)

For more information go to www.odh.ohio.gov

For assistance in Cuyahoga County (except Cleveland and Shaker Heights), call the BCMh nurses at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health (216 201-2040 ext. 4015)

In Cleveland and Shaker Heights, call the BCMh nurses at the Visiting Nurse Association (216 931-1445).