

STATE HEALTH PROGRAMS

What are they?

A variety of services are available through the public health system in the state. These services are generally targeted at specific health conditions or at certain populations at high risk for health problems.

Who are they for?

People who meet a variety of eligibility criteria. In most programs, people must have a specific medical condition and/or financial status to qualify.

Where are applications taken?

Usually at local health departments. Most programs are offered directly by local health departments, or by community health clinics or other medical providers who have contracted with the state to offer particular services. The local health department can provide a referral if the health department does not offer the service directly.

INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), through the Division of Public Health, administers a variety of health programs. Some are designed to prevent injuries or chronic diseases through education and screening services. Others provide treatment to people who already have chronic illnesses, such as cancer or kidney disease. Still others offer health services to people in particular populations, such as migrant workers or children.

Local health departments offer some of these health programs directly. Sometimes, the department has contracts or arrangements with health providers to carry out programs. Initial access to most of the programs is through local health departments. When the health department is not the direct provider of a particular health program, it is usually able to refer a patient to the appropriate provider.

Every area of the state is served by a local health department. Most health departments serve one county, although some serve a multi-county area. Each health department is independent, answering to its own local Board of Health.

Some of the state-funded programs are available throughout the state, but others are available only in certain locations. Some of the programs operate only for part of the year because funds are insufficient to meet all of the need. This chapter describes the major public health programs that provide direct clinical services to individuals throughout the state. The programs that focus mostly on education and health

promotion are not included, nor are programs that are available only in some counties. Your local health department is the best source of information about the programs available in your area. The addresses and phone numbers of all the local health departments in North Carolina are listed in Appendix B.

This chapter is divided into four sections. The first describes state health programs that provide assistance with specific diseases or conditions (AIDS, cancer, hemophilia). The programs are listed alphabetically. The second lists other health-related programs such as family planning and home health services. The third section outlines programs directed at specific populations such as children or refugees. Eligibility requirements are noted for each program. The final section notes services available to children through the school systems.

PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIFIC MEDICAL CONDITIONS

This section describes programs that assist people with specific medical conditions. Eligibility is given for each program. The programs are listed alphabetically by disease.

Cancer

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) provides screening for breast cancer and cervical cancer for eligible women. Local health departments provide screening. Screening is also provided at some community health centers and at regional medical centers.

Services: The BCCCP provides screening and certain specific follow-up care only. This program does not assist with treatment costs, though some women may be eligible for assistance through the Medicaid program, discussed in Chapter 12.

Eligibility: The program focuses on women ages 50 to 64, with family incomes that are at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines (See Appendix A). To be eligible, women cannot be enrolled in Medicaid or Medicare Part B. There is a special emphasis on reaching women of ethnic or racial minorities. Women at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are not charged; women between 100% and 200% of federal poverty guidelines may be charged on a sliding scale.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-205

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 16A .1200 *et. seq.*

Contact:

Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program

Cancer Prevention and Control Branch

North Carolina Division of Public Health

1915 Mail Service Center

Raleigh, NC 27699-1915

919-715-0123

or

Local health department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE

1-800-622-7030

919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Cancer Control Program

This program focuses on the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer. Local health departments have detection and screening clinics that test for breast and cervical cancer. In some counties, testing for skin, colorectal, prostate, testicular, mouth, and throat cancers may be available, either on site or through direct referral to a physician office. If an abnormality is found through the testing process, the health department will refer indigent patients for further diagnosis and, if necessary, treatment. Diagnosis and treatment for indigent patients is paid for by the state through this program.

Eligibility. To receive services in the Cancer Control Program, you must meet both medical and financial criteria. Coverage for treatment is limited to a maximum of eight inpatient days or 30 outpatient visits per year. Patients must be referred by their physicians.

Medical eligibility. For diagnostic services, the person must have a condition that the physician believes is indicative of cancer or might be cancer. There must be a need to perform diagnostic procedures to rule out cancer.

For treatment services, the patient must have cancer that has been confirmed by biopsy or other definitive method. Treatment may not be solely for palliative purposes; there must be at least a 25% chance of survival for at least five years.

Financial eligibility. In order to receive free services, the individual must have an annual gross family income no higher than 115% of the federal poverty guidelines (see Appendix A). If the income is higher, the individual may be able to get some free services after incurring a portion of the bill (called “spend-down”). The local health department and participating physician offices throughout the state can help you determine eligibility.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. §§ 130A-205, 130A-206

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 16A .1100 *et. seq.*

Contact:

Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

Cancer Control Program

Cancer Prevention and Control Branch

Division of Public Health

Department of Health and Human Services

919-715-3148

or

CARELINE

1-800-622-7030

919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Epilepsy

Epilepsy and Neurological Disease Program

Limited funds are available to screen, diagnosis, and treat persons with epilepsy or suspected of having epilepsy. Indigent persons may receive free anticonvulsant medications, although sufficient funds are not available to pay for drugs for everyone who meets the eligibility criteria. Children are generally able to receive needed medications through Children's Special Health Services, so this program concentrates on adults.

Services are provided by seven regional project locations:

- ◆ Albermarle Regional Health District, Elizabeth City
- ◆ Cumberland County Health Department, Fayetteville
- ◆ Jackson County Health Department, Sylvania
- ◆ New Hanover County Health Department, Wilmington
- ◆ Pitt County Health Department, Greenville
- ◆ Carelina Medical Associates, Raleigh
- ◆ Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem

Medical eligibility. The individual must be diagnosed with epilepsy.

Financial eligibility. Clinical services and education services require only that an individual have a medical referral with a diagnosis of epilepsy; there are no financial eligibility requirements. In order to receive free medication, the individual must have an annual net family income no higher than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines

(See Appendix A). If the income is higher, the individual may be able to get some assistance after incurring a portion of the bill.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-223
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 16A.0500

Contact:

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
919-715-3113

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

HIV/ AIDS

HIV Prevention

Counseling, testing, and referral for HIV is available without charge at all local health departments. Testing is confidential, but those receiving tests must give their name and address. Individuals who test positive for HIV are required to notify their sexual and needle sharing partners. A partner notification program is available to assist HIV positive individuals notify their partners. Alternatively, the partner notification staff will notify partners regarding their HIV exposure, without revealing the infected individual's identity.

Eligibility. There are no financial eligibility requirements for the free HIV testing program at local health departments.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. §§ 130A-133; 130A-144;
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 19A .0202

Contact:

Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

AIDS Drug Assistance Program

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) is a joint state-federal program administered by DHHS through the HIV/ STD Prevention and Care Branch. Special oversight is delegated to the AIDS Care Unit (ACU). Funds are available to

purchase various drugs, including protease inhibitors, antiretroviral drugs, and prophylactic drugs such as antibiotics for persons who do not qualify for Medicaid and are not able to purchase the drug. Children with AIDS may be able to obtain additional assistance from the Children's Special Health Services program, described below, or Medicaid. Additionally, ADAP is available to documented immigrants, regardless of their citizenship.

Eligibility. To qualify for the AIDS Drug Program, an individual must be diagnosed with AIDS or be HIV-positive. He or she must also have an annual net income at or below 125% of the federal poverty guidelines based on family size (see Appendix A), be a resident of North Carolina, have no other insurance that pays for their medication (e.g., Medicaid), and have need of at least one of the medications included in the program's formulary.

Additional information about services available for people with AIDS can be obtained from the AIDS Care Unit.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-5(3)
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. §§ 16A .1001-.1005

Contact:

HIV/ STD Prevention and Care Branch
919-715-3111

or

AIDS Care Unit
919-733-7301

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

HIV Consortia and HIV Primary Medical and Dental Care Projects

HIV Care Consortia provide assistance to individuals who have HIV/AIDS. Each of the 12 North Carolina consortia helps coordinate care within a particular region. Each consortium must provide or assure the availability of, at a minimum, case management, transportation, primary medical and dental care, mental health and substance abuse services, benefits advocacy, and emergency assistance. Some consortia provide additional services, such as skilled nursing, medications, respite care, medical and dental care, and nutritional supplements.

Financial Eligibility: Anyone who is HIV positive is eligible to be served, with most clients having incomes that are at or below 125% of the federal poverty level. Clients with higher incomes may be charged a sliding fee scale for services provided.

Medical Eligibility: Individuals diagnosed with HIV and determined to have a need for services meet the medical eligibility criteria.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-223
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § § 16A .0901-.0912

Contact:

AIDS Care Unit
HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch
Division of Public Health
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1902
919-733-7301

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

HIV Community Alternatives Program (CAP/AIDS)

The HIV Community Alternatives Program is a Medicaid program for individuals with HIV/AIDS that require an institutional level of care. This program can provide in-home care as an alternative to nursing home care for those who qualify. Additional information about Medicaid and the Community Alternatives Programs can be found in the chapter on Medicaid.

Contact:

Division of Medical Assistance
2501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2501
919-857-4011

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Hemophilia

Hemophilia Assistance Plan

Through this program, adults and children with hemophilia may be able to get free blood factor replacement. The state allocates a sum of money to each of the following institutions:

- ◆ University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill
- ◆ North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem
- ◆ Duke University Medical Center, Durham
- ◆ East Carolina University Medical Center, Greenville

◆ Carolinas Health Care System, Charlotte

Each of these institutions uses the money to provide blood replacement factor and other services to individuals until funds are exhausted. Individuals must give information about other third party payers, and funds can only be used for services not covered by other programs or insurance.

Eligibility: Individuals seeking assistance must be residents of North Carolina, diagnosed with hemophilia or another congenital bleeding disorder, and seek treatment at one of the above facilities.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-124

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21F .1101 *et. seq.*

Contact:

Children and Youth Branch (This program is run out of the Children and Youth Branch even though it also covers adults.)

Women's and Children's Health Section

Division of Public Health

Department of Health and Human Services

919-733-2815

or

CARELINE

1-800-622-7030

919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Kidney Disease

Kidney Program

This program provides financial assistance to persons suffering from end-stage renal disease (chronic kidney failure). The program ensures the availability of dialysis services and helps with the cost of drugs (up to \$300 per year), supplies, transportation, and other related necessities. Most people with end-stage renal disease are eligible for Medicare. This program pays the cost of items not covered by Medicare.

There are 110 dialysis agencies, half of which are funded to provide transportation assistance.

Eligibility: To receive services, an individual must meet medical and financial criteria.

Medical eligibility: The individual must be diagnosed with end-stage renal disease, have no other payer, be on a waiting list for a kidney transplant, or have had a kidney transplant.

Financial eligibility: The individual must not have an annual net family income in excess of the following limits to receive free services. People with higher incomes may still qualify after incurring some of the expenses themselves. In 2002, the income limits were:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Kidney Program</u>
1	\$6,400
2	8,000
3	9,600
4	11,000
5	12,000
6	12,800
7	13,600
8	14,400

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-220

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 16A.0301 *et. seq.*

Contact:

Chronic Disease Branch
Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
919-715-3113

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Sexually Transmitted Disease

Sexually Transmitted Disease Control

Free examinations and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis, gonorrhea, and chlamydia, are available from all local health departments. Drugs for treating these conditions are also available. Counseling and educational materials about these conditions may be obtained.

Eligibility: There are no financial eligibility criteria and no fees for the services.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. §§ 130A-135, 130A-144

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 19A .0204

Contact:

Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

Sickle Cell Syndrome

Sickle Cell Syndrome Program

Through this program, individuals may be tested for the sickle cell trait. Counseling and referral are also available for those who test positive. Persons who meet financial eligibility guidelines can also receive financial assistance with the cost of certain medical services. Case management services help individuals with sickle cell disease obtain information about the condition and needed medical and social services.

Six clinics throughout the state receive referrals for medical care. They are:

- ◆ Wake Forest University School of Medicine, Winston-Salem
- ◆ Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte
- ◆ Duke University Medical Center, Durham
- ◆ Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville
- ◆ North Carolina Memorial Hospital, Chapel Hill
- ◆ Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte

Financial Eligibility: Local health departments provide sickle cell testing to all who request it.

Persons with both sickle cell disease and with income below the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for financial assistance with the cost of medical services.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-129
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § § 21H .0100, 21H.0200;
24A .0100

Contact:

Sickle Cell Syndrome Program
Women's and Children's Health Section
919-715-3411

or

Local health department for testing information (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Tuberculosis

Tuberculosis Control

Outpatient services for tuberculosis patients and those suspected of having the disease are available at all local health departments. Services include physician and nursing care, X-rays, skin testing, anti-tuberculosis drugs, sputum testing, and drug monitoring.

Eligibility. Anyone in the state who has tuberculosis or is suspected of having the disease is eligible for services. There are no financial eligibility criteria and no fees for any of the services. If a patient is covered by Medicaid, Medicare, or private insurance, those sources may be billed for services.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-144
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 19A.0205

Contact:

Tuberculosis Control
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
1902 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1902
919-733-7286

or

Local health department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Vision

Medical Eye Care Program

The Medical Eye Care Program aims to reduce the incidence of blindness due to retinal disorders, cataracts, and glaucoma.

Services: The program provides screening and corrective services, including eye examinations, treatment, surgery, glaucoma screenings, children's vision screenings, correction of limited vision, and eye care education.

Eligibility: To qualify, services cannot be covered by Medicaid or other government program. Income limits for 2001-2003 are as follows:

<u>Family Size</u>	<u>Medical Eye Care- Adults</u>
1	\$4,860
2	5,940
3	6,204
4	7,284
5	7,281
6	8,220
7	8,772
8	9,312

Sources of Law:

State Law: S. §§ 111-8, 143B-157
State Regulations: 10 N.C.A.C. § 19H .0100

Contact:

Medical Eye Care Program
Division of Services for the Blind
Department of Health and Human Services
919-733-9744

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

OTHER HEALTH SERVICES

This section describes other health programs. These programs provide certain types of services, but do not target individuals with specific diseases. Eligibility information is given for each program.

Family Planning Services

Local health departments offer a range of reproductive health services. Family planning services also help clients make informed choices about the number and spacing of their children. The program focuses its services on teenagers and low-income women, although some counseling and contraceptive services are available to men. Medical, educational, referral, and social services are included. Family planning services include:

- ◆ Clinical services including Pap smears, pelvic and breast exams
- ◆ Screening for gonorrhea, hypertension, anemia, and genetic disorders

- ◆ Lab tests and X-rays
- ◆ Counseling about pre-pregnancy health and planning, contraception, human sexuality, and other related subjects
- ◆ Referral to genetic counseling and other health and social resources
- ◆ A range of family planning methods, including oral contraceptives, condoms, diaphragms, and other devices

Abortions are not available through the family planning program.

Eligibility. Family planning services are available free to people with a family income of less than 100% of the federal poverty guidelines (see Appendix A). In most cases, a teenager will be considered a family of one, so her parents' income will not be counted in determining her financial eligibility. Services are available on a sliding fee scale to persons with a family income between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-124

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21A

Contact:

Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE

1-800-622-7030

919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Genetic Health Care

Both children and adults can receive genetic screening, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up support services through the state's four medical schools, Carolinas Health Care System in Charlotte, or community-based genetic satellite clinics. Evaluation, education, and consultation related to the identification of genetic diseases and the impact on health care outcomes is available for families and providers. The UNC Genetics contractor provides biochemical and metabolic genetic diagnoses, counseling, and management for children and pregnant women.

In addition, newborns are screened to detect phenylketonuria (PKU), hypothyroidism, galactosemia, sickle cell, congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH) and other metabolic disorders. Early identification of these conditions can help reduce morbidity and mortality.

Eligibility: Children and adults in families with an income at or below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for free services (See Appendix A). Children and adults in families with higher income are

eligible on a sliding fee scale basis. No family is denied services because of an inability to pay.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-125

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21H .0300

Contact:

Genetic Health Care Unit
Children and Youth Branch
Women's and Children's Services Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
1928 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1928
919-733-2815

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Senior Care

Senior Care is a prescription drug assistance program is designed to assist older adults (age 65 or older) in paying for medication necessary for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and diabetes.

At the time of publication, the plan was undergoing some changes so assistance could be provided to more people. The information here is scheduled to be effective November 1, 2002. You should call to see if you are eligible.

Services: The program covers outpatient prescription drugs for cardiovascular diseases, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and diabetes with a copayment of 40% of the cost of the medications. The maximum state benefit per year is \$600.

Medical Eligibility: Individuals must be diagnosed with hypertension, angina, arrhythmia, heart failure, or diabetes mellitus. The program is limited to individuals over age 65 with one of these medical conditions.

Financial Eligibility: The program covers individuals up to 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, who are not eligible for full Medicaid benefits, and have no other coverage for prescription drugs.

Contact:
Prescription Drug Assistance Program
Division of Public Health
1915 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1915
919-733-7081
or
CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Maternity Care

Most local health departments offer a full range of prenatal care. In those few counties in which it is not available in the health department, local health providers provide the same care. Services include a physical examination, routine laboratory tests, a nutritional assessment and counseling, and regular check-ups throughout the pregnancy. Consultation from or referral to an obstetrician or high-risk maternity clinic is available if certain high-risk factors are observed. Delivery services are usually arranged through a referral to the private medical community.

All local health departments and some community health centers provide Maternity Care Coordination Services. Over 58 local health departments also provide Maternal Outreach Services for more comprehensive outreach, advocacy, and support services to Medicaid eligible pregnant women and mothers with infants up to age one. These individuals are also responsible for providing social support, reinforcement of education and outreach activities that may not be part of the health care system.

Eligibility. Pregnant women with a family income below 100% of the federal poverty guidelines are eligible for all of the services with no charge. Women with incomes above that level may be charged on a sliding fee scale. Note: Most pregnant women with incomes less than 185% of the federal poverty guidelines, with the exception of many immigrants, are eligible for Medicaid for Pregnant Women. Please see Chapter 12, "Medicaid." Women who apply at the health department for prenatal services are usually encouraged to apply for Medicaid. If they refuse or fail to do so, however, they are still eligible for services.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. §§ 130A-124, 130A-127
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21C

Contact:
Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

SERVICES TO SPECIAL POPULATIONS

This section provides information about programs available for specific groups of people, including children, migrants, and refugees. Eligibility information is given for each program.

Services for Children

Child Health Services

Some basic child health services are available in all local health departments. These services generally include periodic health assessments (including physical, developmental, and nutritional assessments), screening for early detection of disabilities, immunizations, anticipatory guidance for parents, and referrals as appropriate. Some health departments are also able to provide primary care including treatment for routine childhood illnesses.

Eligibility. Immunizations are available without charge to all children, regardless of financial need. Immunizations are available free both at health departments and at private doctors' offices. (Note: While the immunizations are free, doctors can charge a fee for administering the immunization. Please see the Immunization Program section on page 157.) Other child health services are available free to children whose family income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty guidelines, and on a sliding fee scale to children in families with higher incomes. See Appendix A for information on federal poverty guidelines.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-9

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. 21B, 21E, 21F, 21G

Contact:

Local Health Department (See listing in Appendix B)

or

CARELINE

1-800-622-7030

919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Child Service Coordination

Infants who are identified as being at high risk for developmental delays are tracked and referred for special services. The infant may be identified in the hospital newborn nursery or through local health departments, developmental evaluation centers, area mental health centers, primary care physicians, or other providers. Local health departments, developmental evaluation centers, sickle cell programs, and United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) agencies can provide the service coordination.

Families are assigned a care coordinator to help them identify their strengths and outstanding needs. An individualized service plan is created for each family. The

care coordinator may provide follow-up visits and contact as needed. The child may be referred to a Developmental Evaluation Center if that is appropriate (see below).

Eligibility: There are no financial eligibility criteria to receive this service. Children must be under age five. For children up to age three, the child must be at risk of developmental delay, chronic illness, or a social/emotional disorder. For children ages three to five, the child must have a diagnosed developmental, medical, environmental, or social/emotional disorder, or be considered at high risk of developing a disorder. A provider must complete a referral form indicating these needs in order to enroll the child into the program.

Sources of Law:

Federal Law: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et. seq.*, P.L. 105-17 (IDEA)

Contact:

Children and Youth Branch
Women's and Children's Health Section
Department of Health and Human Services
1928 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1928
919-715-3814

or

Children with Special Needs Health Care Help Line
1-800-737-3028

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Children's Special Health Services

This program assists with the costs of medically necessary equipment and other services for children with special health care needs. The program services children under age 21 who have certain chronic medical problems that could keep them from growing and developing normally, and in certain limited instances, adults over the age of 21. The program has three primary components:

- ◆ Assistance for Medicaid eligible children (see Chapter 12) to obtain medically necessary equipment, supplies or pharmaceuticals that are not covered by Medicaid; for example, power wheel chairs or over the counter vitamins or formulas. These services are only covered if the child has exhausted all other sources of possible funding.
- ◆ Assistance for children enrolled in the state Early Intervention Program who are in need of adaptive and assistive devices necessary for optimal functioning.
- ◆ Assistance with costs of equipment, pharmaceuticals and other health care expenses for low-income adults with cystic fibrosis.

- ◆ Assistance with costs of equipment, pharmaceuticals and other health care expenses for low income adults with hemophilia or other congenital blood coagulation disorders.

In addition, state funds are used to support the provision of limited medical and subspecialty care in selected health departments and medical centers.

Eligibility. Eligibility varies by program. In general, children must be either Medicaid eligible or enrolled in the Early Intervention program to receive assistance.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-124

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21F

Contact:

NC Division of Public Health
Women's and Children's Health Section
Children and Youth Branch
1928 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1928
919-715-3302, 919-733-2815

or

Children with Special Health Care Needs Help Line
1-800-737-3028

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Developmental Evaluation Centers Program (DEC)

There are eighteen DECs throughout the state with interdisciplinary staff that provide clinical evaluation, treatment, and case management services for children who have known or suspected developmental disabilities. DECs only serve children birth through age five. The DECs provide services as part of the Infant/Toddler program in Early Intervention Services.

Eligibility. There are no income requirements for a child's eligibility. Some services are available at no cost to families. Other services are subject to fees based on a sliding fee scale. No child is denied services because of inability to pay.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-124

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21G

Contact:
Women's and Children's Health Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
1916 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1916
919-733-7437
or
CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Immunizations

The Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program (UCVDP) provides certain childhood vaccines to health professionals at no charge. The covered immunizations include: Hepatitis B; Polio; Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis (DTaP); Influenzae type b (Hib); Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR); Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV7); and Varicella (Chicken Pox). Children are eligible for immunization according to the schedule recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Influenza and pneumococcal vaccines are also provided by UCVDP for high-risk children.

Eligibility: All children are eligible for the vaccines with the exception of pneumococcal conjugate. State-supplied pneumococcal conjugate vaccine is available through UCVDP for children who are Medicaid- eligible, uninsured, underinsured, American Native, or Alaskan Indian. Children who do not otherwise qualify for the state-supplied pneumococcal conjugate vaccine, can obtain this immunization from their private provider for a charge.

Children are not required to fill out application forms to receive the UCVDP covered immunizations. They can obtain the vaccinations from the local health department, community, migrant, and rural health centers, or the child's current provider, if participating. More than 92% of private physicians participate in the program. The vaccines are free, but private providers may charge an administration fee of \$13.71 for one vaccine, or \$27.42 for two or more vaccines.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § § 130A-152, 130A-153, 130A-433
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § § 19A .0400, 19A .0500

Contact:

Local health department (See listing in Appendix B) or child's physician
or

Immunization Branch
Women's and Children's Health Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
1917 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1917
919-733-7752
or
CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)/Early Intervention Program

The Early Intervention Program includes separate programs designed for infants and toddlers, preschool-aged children, and school-aged children. The primary intent of the program is to identify children with special needs early in life and provide needed services. Providing services to children as early in life as possible allows for the best treatment of a disability, and improves their development. The Infant/Toddler program is administered by DHHS, and discussed here. The preschool and school-aged programs are administered by the Department of Public Instruction, and are discussed in the section on school-based services.

Infant / Toddler Program:

The Infant/Toddler program will provide an evaluation of any child believed to have or be at risk of developing a disability. Children who are determined to be eligible for services are assigned a child service coordinator (see section in this chapter). An individualized treatment plan for the family is designed, drawing off of the available services. This is called an Individual Family Services Plan (IFSP).

Services: Services available in the Infant/Toddler Program include: assistive technology, audiology services, child service coordination, family training and counseling, health services to facilitate the early intervention, diagnostic and evaluative services, nursing, nutrition, psychological services, respite care, social work services, special instruction, therapy, transportation assistance, and vision services.

Medical Eligibility: Children must show a cognitive, physical, psychosocial, communication, and/or adaptive developmental delay. Children may also qualify on the basis of other significant atypical development. Additionally, infants and toddlers may qualify if they are at high risk of developing such delays.

Financial Eligibility: All children may receive an initial evaluation and child service coordination at no charge and without regard to family income. Other services may require fees, but they must be on a sliding scale, after considering the family's income, family size, and other circumstances. Additionally, no child is denied services because of an inability to pay.

Sources of Law:

Federal Law: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et. seq.*, P.L. 105-17 (IDEA)

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 122C

State Regulations: 10 N.C.A.C. § 14V .0900

Contact:

Early Intervention Branch
Women's and Children's Health Section
Division of Public Health
919-715-7500

or

Family Support Network
1-800-852-0042 or
www.fsnn.org

Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

The WIC program, formally entitled the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, provides breastfeeding support, food supplements and nutrition education for eligible individuals who are at nutritional risk. Because this is not considered an entitlement program, not all persons who meet the eligibility criteria will receive benefits.

Services: WIC provides two types of services—food supplements and nutrition education. Eligible individuals receive free food vouchers that can be redeemed at authorized grocery stores for special foods. A professional at the health department or community health center makes up an individual “food prescription” for each participant that is tailored to his or her nutritional needs. The vouchers are for a monthly allotment of the specified foods. Foods typically include formula, juice, and baby cereal for infants; milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, dried beans or peanut butter for pregnant women and children. Women who are breastfeeding may also receive tuna and carrots.

Participants must usually pick up the vouchers from the WIC provider. Usually, three months of vouchers can be picked up at a time. The vouchers must be redeemed within the time period stamped on them.

Each local program must make available free nutrition education as well as specific counseling tailored to the individual's need. WIC participants who decline the nutrition education benefits of the program may not be denied food supplements. Nutrition education should be simple and take into account the cultural and personal preferences of the participants. Pregnant women must be given information on breastfeeding, bottle-feeding, and other aspects of infant feeding. Children should receive information geared to their level of understanding.

Eligibility: In order to qualify for WIC, patients must meet medical requirements as well as financial requirements.

Medical eligibility. Only pregnant or breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age five qualify. In order to receive WIC, individuals must be considered at “nutritional risk.” The determination of whether an individual is at “nutritional risk” is a medical judgment. Examples of why an individual might qualify include anemia, abnormal weight, nutritionally related medical conditions, dietary deficiencies, or some other condition that makes an individual likely to have poor nutrition.

Financial eligibility. In order to qualify, individuals must have income below 185% of the federal poverty guidelines (see Appendix A.)

Sources of Law:

Federal Law: 42 U.S.C. § 1786 *et. seq.*
Federal Regulations: 7 C.F.R. § Part 246
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 21D

Contact:

Nutrition Services
Division of Public Health
DHHS
1914 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1914
(919) 715-1923
1-800-FOR BABY

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

or

Local Health Department (See Appendix B)

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers

Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Health Programs

There are three primary sources of health care for migrant and/or seasonal farmworkers: Community and migrant health centers (C/MHC), the North Carolina Farmworker Health Program (NCFHP), and the Migrant Fee-for-Service program. Health departments, rural health clinics, private practitioners, and hospitals are also sources of care for the migrant and seasonal farmworker community.

Community and migrant health centers, discussed in more detail in Chapter 18, are the largest providers of primary care to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Four centers receive special federal funding to target migrant and seasonal farmworkers: Blue Ridge Community Health Center in Henderson County, Goshen in Duplin County, Greene County Health Care in Greene County, and Tri County Community Health Center in Sampson County.

The North Carolina Farmworker Health Program (NCFHP), within Office of Research, Demonstrations and Rural Health Development of the NC Department of Health and Human Services, receives federal migrant funding to expand the availability of primary and preventive health services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. NCFHP currently contracts with 11 health care providers (four community health centers, four county health departments, two rural health centers and one Partnership for Children community-based organization) to develop and maintain a farmworker health program at these sites. The funds are used to pay for bilingual outreach workers who conduct health assessments and make referrals when necessary, provide health education and case management services, and coordinate evening clinics when needed. The nurse outreach coordinators also offer clinical services both in the field and at residences.

In addition to the federally subsidized programs for migrant and seasonal farmworkers, the state helps fund the NC Migrant Fee-for-Service Program, within the Division of Public Health. Funds are used to pay private doctors, dentists, pharmacists and hospital outpatient departments for services provided to migrant farmworkers across the state. This program does not serve seasonal farmworkers. Reimbursement is limited to \$150 per claim, and the patients are charged a co-pay. The state Migrant Fee-for-Service program generally runs out of money before the end of the fiscal year, leaving migrants without services from this source for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Eligibility: Most programs are available to migrant and seasonal farmworkers, although the Migrant Fee-for-Service program is limited to migrants. Migrants are defined as persons engaged primarily in agricultural work on a seasonal basis who set up temporary residences to accommodate their work. Anyone who has been a migrant farmworker in the past 24 months is eligible for assistance through the different migrant health programs. Seasonal farmworkers are employed in agriculture as their principal employment, but are not migratory.

There are no financial eligibility requirements for these programs, and no migrant or seasonal worker is denied service because of an inability to pay. However, funding for services for the Migrant Fee-for-Service program typically runs out before the end of the fiscal year. Minimum copayments and sliding fee scales exist at some of the clinics and health departments.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 130A-223
State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. § 16A .0100

Contact:

Office of Research, Demonstrations, and Rural Health Development
2009 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-2009
919-733-2040

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Refugees

Refugee Health Program

The purpose of this program is to ensure that any health condition of public health concern or health condition that could impede the effective resettlement of refugees is promptly identified and treated. It provides health assessments of refugees shortly after their arrival, and attempts to acquaint them with the health care system and to integrate them into existing follow-up services as necessary. The primary health departments offering services to refugees are in the four urban areas where most refugees settle. In other parts of the state, the local health department can either perform the assessment or refer the refugee to a health care provider for that service. The program works with other public and private groups to arrange for interpretation, transportation, and other related services.

Eligibility: All persons who are refugees as determined by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service are eligible for most services covered by this program, without regard to financial status. Reimbursement for the health assessment is through Refugee Medical Assistance or Medicaid. Note: Medicaid is generally available to refugees who otherwise meet the personal and financial eligibility requirements. See the chapter on Medicaid in this book for further details.

Sources of Law:

State Law: N.C.G.S. § 143B-153
State Regulations: 10 N.C.A.C. § 35B .0100

Contact:

State Refugee Health Coordinator
919-715-3119

or

Local County Department of Social Services

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

SCHOOL BASED HEALTH SERVICES

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

Two programs are administered by the Department of Public Instruction to address the needs of children with disabilities in the school system. The preschool program provides services to children prior to kindergarten, and the school-aged program

addresses the needs of older children. The goal is to improve the functional abilities for school-aged children by beginning services at an early age.

Pre-School Program

Designed for children ages three to five, the Preschool Program is designed to help meet the special education needs of this age group.

Services: Many of the services are similar to that of the Infant/Toddler Program, except children in the Preschool Program are evaluated to create an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to meet their special education needs.

Medical Eligibility: The criteria for eligibility are generally more stringent for preschoolers than for infants. Children must show a disability that requires special education assistance. Some conditions that meet the criteria include: autism, delayed or atypical development, hearing impairment, orthopedic impairment, speech or language impairment, visual impairment, traumatic brain injury, and other impairments.

Financial Eligibility: Same as the Infant/Toddler Program. Some services may require a fee that is based on a sliding scale. No child may be denied services due to an inability to pay.

Sources of Law:

Federal Law: 20 U.S.C. § 1400 *et. seq.*, P.L. 105-17 (IDEA)

State Law: N.C.G.S. §§ 143B-139.6A, 179.5 *et. seq.* (Early Intervention for children birth through five)

State Regulations: 16 N.C.A.C. § 6H

Contact:

Preschool Program Coordinator
Exceptional Children Division
Department of Public Instruction
919-715-1598

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

School Age Program

This program provides services for school-aged children with disabilities. This includes children with permanent or temporary mental, physical, or developmental disabilities.

Services: A wide variety of services are available if needed to help secure an appropriate education for the child. Children are evaluated to develop an

Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Children should be served in the least restrictive environment, and every effort is made to educate them with children who are not disabled. Available services include:

- ◆ Special education services provided within a regular classroom, with or without additional services outside the classroom
- ◆ Self-contained special education classes
- ◆ Separate public or private school facilities
- ◆ Public or private residential facilities
- ◆ Hospital or homebound education services

Medical Eligibility: Children must be diagnosed with a mental, physical, or developmental disability that requires special services. Diagnoses that may qualify for these services include: autism, behavioral or emotional disability, deafness or blindness, hearing impairment, mental disability, multiple handicaps, orthopedic impairment, specific learning disability, speech-language impairment, traumatic brain injury, and visual impairment.

Financial Eligibility: There are no financial eligibility requirements. All children deemed medically eligible for services are entitled to them.

Sources of Law:

Federal Law:	20 U.S.C. § 1400 <i>et. seq.</i> , P.L. 105-17 (IDEA)
State Law:	N.C.G.S. §§ 143B-139.6A, 179.5 <i>et. seq.</i> (Early Intervention for children birth through five); N.C.G.S. § 115C-106 <i>et. seq.</i> (Special Education Services for older children)
State regulations:	16 N.C.A.C. § 6H

Contact:

Child's School
or
Exceptional Children Division
Department of Public Instruction
919-807-3300
or
CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

School-Based Health Centers

Some North Carolina Public Schools have school-based health centers (SBHC), which provide comprehensive primary and preventive care for students. These centers provide services such as comprehensive health assessments, diagnosis and treatment of illness, immunizations, laboratory tests, health education, nutrition services, and mental health services. In some areas, where a need has been shown, the clinic may also offer services to the children of students. North Carolina has

provided funding for approximately 50 SBHCs, primarily located in middle schools and high schools. See Appendix B for schools in your county that have a school-based health center.

Eligibility: Children enrolled in the school who have consent forms from parents or guardians may receive services. Most school-based health centers will file third party insurance or assist students in enrolling in Medicaid or NC Health Choice, if eligible. The clinics may charge fees as appropriate, but no child will be denied services because of an inability to pay.

Contact:

Children and Youth Branch
Women's and Children's Health
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
1928 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1928
919-733-2815

or

Contact the child's school to inquire about availability

or

CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Dental Care

A variety of dental services are provided through the school system. The programs are targeted to schools with high-risk populations. Dental services include screenings to identify tooth decay, education on good oral hygiene, and fluoride mouth rinses to prevent tooth decay. Children with dental caries are referred to dentists for treatment. Children without dental insurance or another source of payment may be referred to a local health department or non-profit community dental clinic that provides dental services to low-income or uninsured people.

Sources of Law:

State Regulations: 15A N.C.A.C. §§ 17A, 17B

Contact:

Child's school

or

Oral Health Section
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services
1910 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1910
919-733-3853
or
CARELINE
1-800-622-7030
919-733-4261 (in Raleigh)

Social Workers

Social workers in schools offer a range of services to students, including needs assessment, advocacy, service coordination, and direct service to students. Social workers can address some needs of students who are experiencing social-emotional or behavioral problems, and can assist them in finding additional help.

Considerable variability exists in the availability of school social workers; some counties do not have any social workers, and others have several. Also, a social worker's role varies from school to school.

Contact:
The child's school.

School Counselors

All North Carolina schools, from elementary school through high school, should have at least one school counselor. The role of school counselors is to address the developmental needs of students. One of their functions is to provide direct counseling services to students individually or in small groups. Although counselors do provide services to help students with educational, social, or personal concerns, they also often consult with families to find appropriate help for students needing long-term treatment.

In general, however, most school counselors have limited time for such interactions. About half report spending less than 20% of their time in direct services to students. Counselors are encouraged to consult with children they feel may be experiencing adjustment difficulties and refer them for further treatment if it is considered necessary.

Contact:
The child's school.

School Nurses

School nurses provide some basic health services to students. Services may include health screenings, identification of illness or special needs and appropriate referrals, dispensing medications, and providing emergency care if needed. Some schools have

full-time nurses on staff; others share school nurses between schools. The availability of school health nursing services varies by school.

Contact:
The child's school.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Local Public Health Departments are listed in Appendix B.

N.C. Department of Health and Human Services

Care Line: 1-800-662-7030

Division of Public Health, Women's and Children's Health Section

919-733-3816

Division of Public Health, Oral Health Section

919-733-3853

Division of Public Health, Epidemiology

919-733-3421

Division of Public Health, Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention

919-733-7081