

# Connecticut Medical Home Initiative for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program • April 2024

## Who is eligible?

Children and youth aged 0 to 21 who have, or are at increased risk for, a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and who also require health and related services by a type and amount beyond that required by children generally.

## What is a Medical Home?

A medical home is not a house or hospital. It is an approach to providing comprehensive primary care. The pediatric health care provider works in partnership with the child or youth and their family to assure all medical and non-medical needs are met.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Medical Home Policy Statement says the physician should be known to the children and youth and their families and should be able to develop a partnership of mutual responsibility and trust with them. Their National Resource Center page includes tools, resources, and links that will assist families. <https://medicalhomeinfo.aap.org/Pages/default.aspx>

**The CT Medical Home Initiative (CMHI) for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) helps to assure that programs and policies are in place to ensure:**

- Children have access to coordinated quality health care services.
- Providers are adequately trained.
- Financing issues are equitably addressed.
- Families play a pivotal role in how services are provided to their children.
- Children grow up healthy & ready to work.



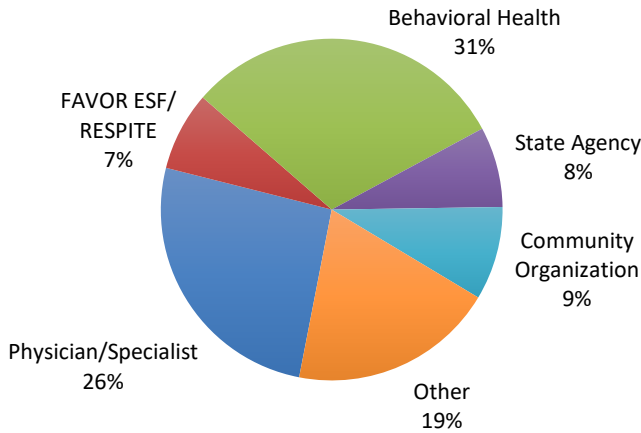
Several contractors throughout the state, including hospitals and community organizations, provide services through the CMHI for CYSHCN. One of the services is the Education Practices program, which offers 21 training topics to help pediatric practices across Connecticut improve delivery of child health services. From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, seven (7) training courses were completed in five (5) different practices and included 71 participants. Training is offered both virtually and in person.

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs is a national resource and partner for states. The link to the CYSHCN page provides several resources and links including publications and best practices used to help CYSHCN. <http://www.amchp.org/programsandtopics/CYSHCN/Pages/default.aspx>

**All families of eligible children and youth with special health care needs receive:**

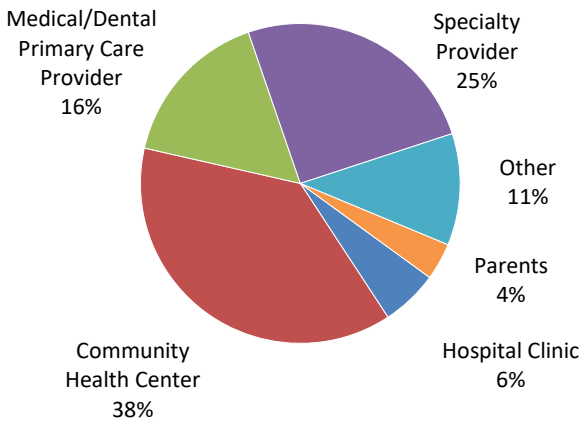
- A respectful working partnership with you and your child's medical home,
- Care Coordination services,
- Family support and referrals.

**CT Medical Home Linkages FY 2022-2023**



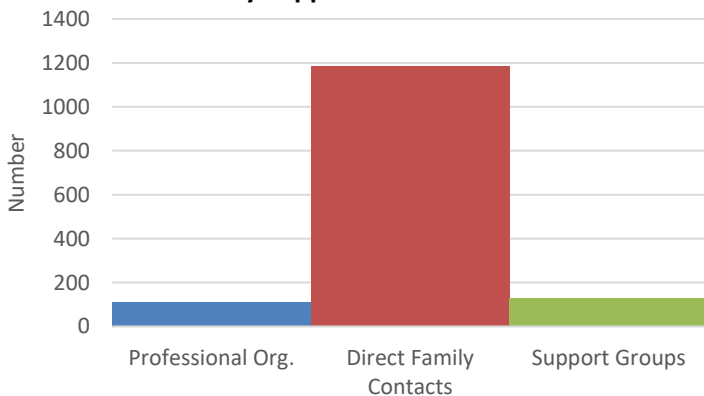
One of the goals of CMHI is to link children and youth with special health care needs and their families to any services or providers that they need. In the 2023 contract year, CMHI Care Coordination staff in the five regions provided over 7,285 linkages to multiple services and providers. CYSHCN were linked to important behavioral health services over 2,247 times, which made up 31% of all the linkages provided. There were over 1,890 linkages with a necessary primary care physician, specialist, or dentist, which made up 26% of all linkages.

**Referrals to the CMHI FY2022-2023**



Several different organizations and providers recognize the value of the CT Medical Home Initiative. This is evident from the number of referrals to the program throughout the state, which totaled 884. Over 140 CYSHCN were referred by medical and dental primary care providers, which was 16% of all referrals. Specialists referred 223 CYSHCN (25%). Community Health Centers referred 334 patients (38%) and hospital clinics referred 51 patients (6%).

**CT Family Support Network FY 2022-2023**



CT Family Support Network (CTFSN) provides direct support to individuals and families in their homes and communities by sharing information and resources that empower people to make their voices heard and to become their own best advocate. During the 2022-2023 contract year, they worked with 111 professional organizations, 1,186 direct family contacts, and held 131 support groups for families. CTFSN has a large, active social media presence in Connecticut with over 10,379 followers on a variety of groups and platforms.

**United Way of Connecticut Child Development Infoline (CDI)**

**1-800-505-7000**

<https://cdi.211ct.org>

A central access point of access for Connecticut’s Medical Home Initiative for CYSHCN. CDI supports children’s healthy growth and development and provides information about medical, educational, and recreational resources.

