

9/17/09



Early Childhood Resources in Clay County

A directory of resources available to children with special needs

This booklet was developed as a resource tool for families living in Clay County who have a child with special needs. There are many resources and services in our community that may be available to your child and family. The purpose of this guide is to give you information on some of the resources in Clay County that may be helpful to you as you plan for the needs of your child.

This resource tool is divided into 3 basic categories:

- **Early Learning**
- **Family Support**
- **Financial Resources**



Early Learning

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

School districts provide early education services to any child with special needs starting at birth. This includes children who, because of prematurity or other complications, may experience problems or difficulties in the areas of development. Parents work together with a team of professionals from education, public health, and human services to plan the services the child needs. Services are free to children who meet eligibility requirements.

Moorhead School District
2410 14th St S
Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)284-3801
sking@moorhead.k12.mn.us

DGF Schools
PO Box 188
Dilworth, MN 56529
(218)287-2371
sdahlberg@dgf.k12.mn.us

Lake Agassiz Special Ed. Coop.
PO Box 209
Audubon, MN 56511
(218)439-6876
njab@lpa.k12.mn.us

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)

ECFE is a program for all Minnesota families with children between the ages of birth to kindergarten entrance. The program is offered through Community Education and offers classes and activities for parents and their children. ECFE is based on the idea that the family provides a child's first and most significant learning environment, and parents are a child's first and most important teachers. ECFE's goal is to enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for their child's learning and growth.

<u>Moorhead ECFE</u>	<u>DGF</u>	<u>Barnesville</u>	<u>Hawley</u>	<u>Ada-Borup</u>	<u>Ulen-Hitterdal</u>
(218)284-3400	287-2732	354-2638	483-4635	784-5303	962-3215

Head Start

Head Start is a full-service program for preschool children and their families. Head Start primarily serves three and four year olds, giving priority to low-income families and children with special needs. The overall goal of Head Start is to help young children be ready for school. Head Start services include education, health, nutrition, mental health, and social services.

Clay-Wilkin Head Start
715 11th St N, Suite 104, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)299-7021 or (800)452-3646
www.lakesandprairies.net

Family Support

Arc West Central

Arc West Central Minnesota is a non-profit agency dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families by:

- providing a system of support
- advocating for basic civil rights
- providing workshops and other educational opportunities
- improving public policies
- providing information and referral sources
- developing opportunities and services
- enabling people to become contributing members of their communities

Arc West Central – Donna and Terry Atherton
810 4th Ave S, Suite 134, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)233-5949 or (800)411-0124
E-mail: @702com.net www.arcwestcentral.org

Child Care Resource and Referral Network (CCR&R)

CCR&R helps parents identify and select quality childcare. They provide referrals to families, are a resource to businesses, and offer training opportunities for child care providers.

Lakes & Prairies - Child Care Resource & Referral
715 11th St N, Suite 402, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)299-7026 or (800)941-7003
www.lakesandprairies.net

Clay County Collaborative

The Clay County Collaborative is a partnership of Clay County, its five school districts and non-profit agencies who are committed to working together in partnership with families and to making the changes necessary in their organizations to better serve children and their families. Our mission is to work in partnership and collaboration to empower and provide opportunities for children and families. The Collaborative has many committees and work groups, each made up of representatives from the various partner organizations as well as parents.

Coordinator: Dawn Tommerdahl
715 11th St N, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)498-2389
<http://www.claycountycollaborative.org/>

Public Health

Public Health Nurses can be valuable resources in the care of a child with special needs. They may provide information and referral to resources, health services, health and developmental screening, home health services, Child and Teen Check-Ups, Women Infant and Children (WIC) and address a wide range of health and medical needs of the community.

Clay County Public Health
715 11th St N, Suite 303, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)299-5220

Home Care Services

Home care provides medical and health-related services and assistance with day-to-day activities to people in their home. It can be used to provide short-term care or it can also be used to provide continuing care to people with ongoing needs. Home care services are available to people who are eligible for Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare Expanded (pregnant women and children) who have needs that are medically necessary and physician ordered. Home care services are provided in a person's residence and may also be provided outside the person's home when normal life activities take them away from home.

Medical Assistance covers the following home care services:

- Equipment and supplies, such as wheelchairs and diabetic supplies
- Home health aide
- Personal care assistant
- Private duty nursing
- Skilled nursing visits
- Therapies (occupational, physical, respiratory and speech)

To see if your child is eligible for home care services, you can call a home health agency or your county public health nurse (above).

Interagency Early Intervention Committee (IEIC)

The Clay County IEIC exists to ensure that comprehensive services are made available to young children with disabilities and their families. The goals of the IEIC are to:

- Plan for and provide quality, coordinated, consumer-oriented services to children with disabilities and their families in accordance with state and federal mandated criteria.
- Ensure that services are provided during the span birth to 7 years of age and include transitional plans.
- Evaluate the quality and adequacy of such services and make recommendations when appropriate.

IEICs are local committees with membership that includes: parents of young children with disabilities from birth to age 7; representatives of local and regional health, education, and county human service agencies; county boards; school boards; Early Childhood Family Education programs; Head Start and community service agencies.

The Clay County IEIC meets every other month. For more information regarding the IEIC you can contact your local school, Clay County Social Services, or Clay County Public Health.

Social Services

Clay County Social Services provides Rule 185 Service Coordination to persons with developmental disabilities and related conditions. The Service Coordinator assists persons in gaining access to needed social, medical, educational and other supports and services.

Service activities provided to, or arranged for, a person may include but are not limited to:

- Informing the person or the person's legal representative of service options
- Assisting the person in the identification of potential service providers
- Development of a service plan based on a person's assessed needs and preferences
- Assisting the person in accessing needed services
- Coordination of services
- Evaluation and monitoring of the services identified in the service plan

You will be assigned a Service Coordinator, who will determine if your child qualifies.

To apply for Service Coordination for your child contact:

Clay County Social Services
715 11th St N, Suite 502, Moorhead, MN 56560
(218)299-5200 or (800)757-3880

*Note: Social Services Income Maintenance Unit determines eligibility for Medical Assistance, TEFRA, food support, and other financial programs; the workers that determine eligibility for these programs are called Financial Workers. See Financial Resources section below for more information on these programs.

Respite Care

Taking care of any child can be a tiring and stressful job at times. For parents of a child who has special care needs, the job can be more difficult and the chances to relax are much fewer. Having someone step in and care for your child can stop the strain from getting the best of you. One kind of short-term care is called respite care. There are many ways of getting respite care. When talking with professionals about your child and your family, ask them about respite care services in your area. If your child has special medical needs, home nursing care may be needed. Your insurance policy may cover home care services including respite. If your child has Medical Assistance (MA), Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA), or Waiver services, some home health services may be covered.

Financial Resources

Medical Assistance (MA, Medicaid)

You may qualify for financial help for medical care, depending on your income. For people who qualify, programs such as Medical Assistance (MA) or MinnesotaCare may pay or help pay the cost of clinic and physicians' services, hospital care, medical equipment and supplies, therapies, personal care services, mental health services, vision and dental care, and other related medical expenses. Coverage can start up to three months from when you turn in your application.

To apply, you must fill out a Minnesota Health Care Programs Application, which you can obtain at 715 11th St N, Suite 102, Moorhead, MN. You will be assigned a Financial Worker who will determine your eligibility for financial programs.

Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act (TEFRA)

MA is available for some children with disabilities who usually would not be eligible because of parent's income. This is called the TEFRA option. Children are eligible with regard to their own assets but not assets of their parents. Some parents may be required to pay a fee based on their income. Covered health care services include all services covered under Medical Assistance. It can also help cover other health insurance premiums that are considered cost-effective.

For a child to be eligible for MA under the TEFRA option the child must:

- Be under 18 years of age
- Be certified disabled by Social Security or the State Medical Review Team (SMRT)
- Meet all other MA eligibility factors

To apply for the TEFRA option, you must fill out an application for MA (see above). On the application, check the box that states your child has a disability and/or write TEFRA on the front of the application. If you have more questions about TEFRA or are interested in estimating your parental fee, call Social Services intake at (218)299-5200.

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

SSI is a program through Social Security for people with disabilities or special needs. SSI provides a monthly payment to use in meeting that child's needs. Your child under age 18 can qualify if he or she meets Social Security's definition of disability for children, and if your family's income and resources fall within the eligibility limits. To apply for SSI, call Social Security's main phone number at (800)772-1213 or the Fargo office at (701)239-5607.

When you call, you will be asked for information about your income and assets, names and addresses of professionals who care for or have tested your child, information about your child's medical conditions or development, your child's Social Security number and proof of your child's birth. For more information, go to the website at: www.socialsecurity.gov

Home and Community-Based Waiver Programs

Waiver programs are designed to serve individuals with special needs in the community who would otherwise require the level of care provided in a nursing home or other health care facility. There are requirements the individual must meet to be eligible for a waiver program. Covered services under the home and community-based waiver programs include all covered MA services plus home health care, therapies, equipment, home/vehicle modifications, respite, counseling and others. For more information or to apply for a waiver program, contact Clay County Social Services at (218)299-5200 or your Service Coordinator if you have one.

Family Support Grant (FSG)

The FSG Program provides cash grants to eligible families with children who have certified disabilities. These grants offset the higher than average expenses directly related to a child's disability to that are unavailable through other funding sources. Grants can be no more than \$3060 per year for each eligible child.

The Family Support Grant is available to persons:

- Under the age of 21 years
- Certified disabled
- Who live or will live in their biological or adoptive family home
- Whose family has annual adjusted gross income of \$89,011 or less (effective 1/1/09) except in cases where extreme hardship is demonstrated

For more information on the application process, contact Clay County Social Services at (218)299-5200. You can also go the Minnesota Department of Human Services website at: www.dhs.state.mn.us