



Children with Special Health Care Needs Client Demographics

**As Required by
2024-25 General Appropriations Act,
House Bill 1, 88th Legislature,
Regular Session, 2023**

**(Article II, Health and Human Services
Commission, Rider 75(a))**

**Texas Health and Human Services
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Introduction

The Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Services Program submits the Client Demographics Report for fiscal year 2024 in compliance with the 2024-25 General Appropriations Act, House Bill 1, 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023 ([Article II, Health and Human Services Commission \(HHSC\), Rider 75\(a\)](#)).

Rider 75(a) requires HHSC to submit a report on the CSHCN Services Program client demographics by December 1st of each year to the Governor and the Legislative Budget Board. The report must include a demographic description of both the population served by the program and of those individuals on the program waiting list. Descriptive data includes information regarding income, other health care resources (i.e., insured status), and citizenship. The data provided was sourced from the Texas Integrated Business Information System and the CSHCN expenditures database.

Background

The CSHCN Services Program provides benefits to children of low-income families under the age of 21 with special health care needs, as well as people of any age with cystic fibrosis. The program assists with:

- Medical, dental, and mental health care;
- Prescription drugs;
- Special therapies;
- Case management;
- Family services;
- Travel to health care visits; and
- Insurance premiums.

The CSHCN Services Program is funded with a combination of federal Title V Maternal Child Health Block Grant funding and state general revenue funding.

The CSHCN Services Program staff, in conjunction with staff in the regional offices of the Department of State Health Services (DSHS), work with clients to enroll and maintain eligibility for the program. CSHCN staff ensures clients enroll for all other eligible forms of coverage to ensure that the CSHCN Services Program funding is used solely as a payor of last resort.

The CSHCN Services Program maintains a waiting list of clients seeking health care benefits when appropriated funding is insufficient to support the demand for benefits. These clients are removed from the waiting list when funding becomes available to serve additional clients. Clients are eligible for case management services only while they are on the waiting list. Staff reviews the program's budget and expenditures monthly to determine when funding may be available to remove clients from the waiting list. Clients transition from the waiting list based on age, urgency of need, and the date of application. The CSHCN Services Program removed 25 individuals from the waiting list to receive active coverage during fiscal year 2024. HHSC's rules regarding the waiting list can be found in [Title 26 of the Texas Administrative Code in Part 1, Section 351.16](#).

In fiscal year 2024, the program hosted a free, public webinar in observance of National Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Awareness Month on May 21, 2024. Speakers from the

National CF Foundation shared about the history of CF and experiences of individuals living with this condition as well as the work that the foundation does to improve care and supports for individuals in the community. In August, the program exhibited at the Texas Parent to Parent conference, a two-day conference for over 800 attendees that primarily consists of families of children and youths with special health care needs. The program shared resources and eligibility information about the program.

Program staff also provided training and education at the DSHS Specialized Health and Social Services Biennial Conference to state case managers and eligibility specialists on the program's benefits and services. Program staff collaborates with the DSHS programs that support children and youths with special health care needs. These collaborative efforts complement services provided by the two agencies for the individuals served through information and resource sharing.

CSHCN Services Program maintains its program information for the public on the [HHSC website](#), the [Navigate Life Texas website](#), and the [Texas Medicaid and Healthcare Partnership website](#). Additionally, the program published a [compendium of resources](#) that may provide additional support, services, and assistance to clients or other individuals with special health care needs. The compendium may help clients connect to additional services and resources within their communities to attain health benefits beyond the program's coverage or while on the program's waiting list.

Required Data

In fiscal year 2024, the program enrolled 1,722 clients in active coverage, and provided a service to 1,184 clients (see Table 1). Of the clients served, 49.16 percent were at or below 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL), 89.19 percent did not have insurance coverage (see Table 2), and 74.24 percent were noncitizens (see Table 3). As of August 31, 2024, there were 856 eligible individuals on the CSHCN waiting list.¹

Income Levels

To be eligible for services, program applicants must have an income level at or below 200 percent of the FPL. If the applicant is over program income limits, they may apply qualifying medical expenses to spend down their household income to the eligible level. Proof of qualifying medical expenses is required for all clients above 200 percent FPL. Table 1 provides information of the different income levels and the number of clients served.

Table 1. Income Levels

Percent of FPL	Number of Clients Served	Percent of Clients Served	Number of Eligible Clients on Waitlist	Percent of Waitlist
100% of FPL or less	582	49.15%	530	61.92%
101-150% of FPL	367	31.00%	176	20.56%
151-200% of FPL	203	17.15%	110	12.85%
201% of FPL or above	32	2.70%	40	4.67%
Total	1,184	100.00%	856	100.00%

Insured Status

Clients may be eligible for more than one type of insurance coverage at different times in the reporting year. This report uses a hierarchical methodology to report a unique count of clients served within each insurance status.

¹ The data in this report is subject to change due to the 95-day claims filing deadline.

Table 2 provides the number of clients served under different insurance status types. The Medicaid insurance type includes clients enrolled in Medicaid at any time in the year. The program's staff verify Medicaid status during the annual renewal process and update client records when notified of insurance changes because services eligible to be paid for by Medicaid cannot be paid for by the program.

The CHIP insurance type consists of clients that were enrolled in CHIP at any time during the year. All remaining clients with private insurance are listed as "Private Insurance," and clients with no other coverage during the year are listed as "None." Coverages are reverified and updated, as needed, before clients are provided benefits during a waiting list action.

Table 2. Insurance Status

Insurance Type	Number of Clients Served	Percent of Clients Served	Number of Eligible Clients on Waitlist	Percent of Waitlist
Medicaid	97	8.19%	236	27.57%
CHIP	2	0.17%	12	1.40%
Private Insurance	29	2.45%	23	2.69%
None	1,056	89.19%	585	68.34%
Total	1,184	100.00%	856	100.00%

Citizenship Status

The CSHCN Services Program application for benefits requests citizenship status. However, it is not required for eligibility and applicants do not always disclose. The program receives information regarding a client's citizenship in two ways: 1) a client may self-disclose this information by indicating their citizenship status through the application packet; or 2) the program receives the information when receiving a Medicaid denial letter, which indicates the reason for denial as "non-citizen." Table 3 provides citizenship information and the number of clients served.

Table 3. Citizenship Status

Citizenship Status	Number of Clients Served	Percent of Clients Served	Number of Eligible Clients on Waitlist	Percent of Waitlist
Citizen / Legal Resident	305	25.76%	399	46.61%

Citizenship Status	Number of Clients Served	Percent of Clients Served	Number of Eligible Clients on Waitlist	Percent of Waitlist
Non-Citizen	879	74.24%	457	53.39%
Total	1,184	100.00%	856	100.00%