Child Poverty
A Financial Assessment and Resource Guide for Children with Complex Medical Conditions

(Adapted from Drs. Julia Morinis, Leo Levin, Gary Bloch, Lee Ford-Jones and the Social Pediatrics Working Group)

What can we do as palliative care specialists and health care providers to address this potentially modifiable risk factor and reduce disparities?

Poverty requires intervention like other major health risks. The evidence shows that socioeconomic status and child health are strongly linked. There is strong and growing evidence that children with a life limiting illness who are living below the poverty line are less likely to: receive medications for pain and symptom management, have access to palliative and hospice care, and die in a preferred location such as home.

ASK

Families tell us that caring for a very ill child can mean extra financial stress. We want to help understand this more by asking a few questions.

1. Do you have trouble making ends meet?
2. Do you have trouble feeding your family?
3. Do you have trouble paying for medications?
4. Do you receive the child tax benefit?
5. Do you have legal or immigration challenges?
6. Do you have a safe place to live?
7. Do you have enough help caring for your child?

See back for resources
**RESOURCES TO ADDRESS CHILD POVERTY (Toronto Based)**

Help in more than 150 languages can also be found at the Community Health Help Line 211 ([www.211ontario.ca](http://www.211ontario.ca))

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1. **Do you have trouble making ends meet?**
   - **Benefits and Supports**
     - [www.canadabenefits.gc.ca](http://www.canadabenefits.gc.ca)
     - [www.ontario.ca/BenefitsDirectory](http://www.ontario.ca/BenefitsDirectory)
   - **Community Income Tax Clinics**
     - 1-800-959-8281
   - **Social Support Programs**

2. **Do you have trouble feeding your family?**
   - **Daily Food Bank**
     - 416-203-0050 • [www.dailybread.ca](http://www.dailybread.ca)
   - **School aged children**
     - [www.breakfastclubscanada.org/](http://www.breakfastclubscanada.org/)
   - **FoodLink HotLine**
     - (416) 392-6655 • [www.foodshare.net](http://www.foodshare.net/)

3. **Do you have trouble paying for medications?**
   - **Ontario Drug Benefit Program**
     - 416-314-5518 • 1-800-268-1154

4. **Do you receive the child tax benefit?**
   - **Service Canada**
     - [www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cctb.shtml](http://www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cctb.shtml)
   - **Canada Revenue Agency**
     - [www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html](http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html)
     - (includes links on universal child care benefit and children’s special allowances)
   - **Ontario Trillium Benefit**

5. **Do you have legal or immigrations challenges?**
   - **Access Alliance**
     - 416-324-8677 • [www.accessalliance.ca](http://www.accessalliance.ca)
   - **Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)**
     - [www.cleo.on.ca](http://www.cleo.on.ca)
   - **Legal Aid Ontario**
     - 416-979-1446 • 1-800-668-8258
     - [www.legalaid.on.ca](http://www.legalaid.on.ca)
   - **OCASI-Settlement**
     - 416-322-4950 • [www.settlement.org](http://www.settlement.org)

6. **Do you have a safe place to live?**
   - **Assaulted Women’s helpline**
     - 416-863-0511
   - **Domestic Violence Women**
     - 416-323-9140 • [www.schliferclinic.com](http://www.schliferclinic.com)
   - **Toronto Homeless Services**
     - [www.toronto.ca/housing](http://www.toronto.ca/housing)
   - **Emergency Shelters**
     - 1-877-338-3398
   - **Toronto Community Housing Corporation**
     - 416-981-5500
   - **Housing Connections, Toronto**
     - 416-981-6111 Special Priority Housing

7. **Do you have enough help caring for your child at home?**
   - **Compassionate Care Benefit**
     - (Employment Insurance Benefit)
     - 1-800-206-7218 (TTY: 1-800-529-3742)
   - **Employment Insurance Benefit for Parents of Critically Ill Children**
     - (expected to be available June 2013)
   - **Ontario Drug Benefits (Trillium Drug Program)**
     - (provides financial assistance for households that spend a large portion of its income on prescribed drugs)
     - [www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/FormsDetail?OpenForm&ACT=RDR&TAB=PROFILE&ENV=WWE&NO=014-3693-87](http://www.forms.ssb.gov.on.ca/mbs/ssb/forms/ssbforms.nsf/FormsDetail?OpenForm&ACT=RDR&TAB=PROFILE&ENV=WWE&NO=014-3693-87)
   - **Community Care Access Centres (CCAC)**
     - (provides home nursing visits, care coordinator, social workers, physiotherapists, personal support workers)
     - [www.ccac-ont.ca • 310-CCAC (310-2222)](http://www.ccac-ont.ca)
   - **Special Services at Home (SSAH)**
     - Ministry of Community and Social Services
     - Toronto Regional Office
     - 416-325-5553 • [www.gov.on.ca](http://www.gov.on.ca)
   - **ACSD (Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities)**
     - [www.mcss.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/developmental](http://www.mcss.gov.on.ca/mcss/english/pillars/developmental)
   - **Hospice Toronto**
     - [www.hospicetoronto.ca • 416-364-1666](http://www.hospicetoronto.ca)
   - **Tammy Latner Center for Palliative Care**
     - (provides visiting palliative care physicians to families in the City of Toronto)
     - [www.tlcpc.org • 416-586-4800 ext. 7984](http://www.tlcpc.org)
   - **The Unforgettables Fund**
     - (funds that support funerals and burials)
     - The Hospital for Sick Children, Department of Social Work
     - 416-813-5883 • e-mail: ruta.niedra@sickkids.ca
   - **Children’s Wish Foundation**
     - 905-831-9474 • 1-800-267-9474
     - [www.childrenswish.ca](http://www.childrenswish.ca)