

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)

1 Do you have trouble making ends meet?

Benefits and Supports

www.canadabenefits.gc.ca
www.ontario.ca/BenefitsDirectory

Community Income Tax Clinics

1-800-959-8281
www.cra-arc.gc.ca/tx/ndvdl/vintr/clncs/on-eng.html

Social Support Programs

www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/odsp/
www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/en/mcscs/programs/social/ow/

2 Do you have trouble feeding your family?

Daily Food Bank

416-203-0050 • www.dailybread.ca

School aged children

www.breakfastclubscanada.org/

FoodLink HotLine

(416) 392-6655 www.foodshare.net/

3 Do you have trouble paying for medications?

Ontario Drug Benefit Program

416-314-5518 • 1-800-268-1154
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/pub/drugs/trillium/html

4 Do you receive the child tax benefit?

Service Canada

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/goc/cctb.shtml

Canada Revenue Agency

www.cra-arc.gc.ca/bnfts/menu-eng.html
(includes links on universal child care benefit and children's special allowances)

Ontario Trillium Benefit

www.fin.gov.on.ca/en/credit/otb/index.html

5 Do you have legal or immigrations challenges?

Access Alliance

416-324-8677 • www.accessalliance.ca

Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO)

www.cleo.on.ca

Legal Aid Ontario

416-979-1446 • 1-800-668-8258
www.legalaid.on.ca

OCASI-Settlement

416-322-4950 • 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

Toronto Homeless Services

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)

www.servicecanada.gc.ca/eng/ei/types/compassionate_care.shtml

1-800-206-7218 (TTY: 1-800-529-3742)

Employment Insurance Benefit for Parents of Critically Ill Children

(expected to be available June 2013)

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-eng.do?nid=689699>

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/FormDetail?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)

Special Services at Home (SSAH)

Ministry of Community and Social Services
Toronto Regional Office
416-325-5553 • www.gov.on.ca

ACSD (Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities)

www.mcscs.gov.on.ca/mcscs/english/pillars/developmental

Hospice Toronto

www.hospicetoronto.ca • 416-364-1666

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. 7884

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