

## Did You Know?

- There are currently about 3,000 children in foster in San Diego County.
- Forty to sixty percent (40%-60%) of children in foster care have chronic medical conditions, such as: asthma, cognitive abnormalities, visual and hearing problems, dental decay, and poor nutrition.
- Lack of adequate medical records can result in over-immunization and under-treatment of chronic health conditions in children in foster care.



For more information about the HCPCFC, contact a foster care nurse in your area.

**South Region**  
(619) 585-5044

**North Coastal Region**  
(760) 754-3451

**North Inland Region**  
(760) 480-3428

**North Central Region**  
(858) 694-5422

**East Region**  
(619) 401-3647

**Central Region**  
(619) 521-7360

**Residential**  
(619) 767-5306

**Probation**  
(858) 694-4419

County of San Diego  
Health and Human Services Agency  
Public Health Services  
Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care  
3851 Rosecrans St., Ste. 522,  
San Diego, CA 92110-3115  
[www.chdpsd.org](http://www.chdpsd.org)



# Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC)



"What its children become,  
That will the community become."  
- Suzanne LaFollette

## Children in Foster Care

In the U.S., there is an estimated 500,000 children in the foster care system. California has among the highest number with about 70,000 children in out-of-home placement.

Children in foster care range from infants to adolescents and encompass all races and ethnicities.



The HCPCFC is a collaborative effort by the County of San Diego, including: Child Welfare Services (CWS), the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program, and Juvenile Probation. For information about no-cost health exams for foster and non-foster children, call **1-800-675-2229**.

## Profile on HCPCFC

The health and development of a child can be seriously affected by maltreatment, lack of continuity of health care, and frequent placement changes.



In 1989, the County of San Diego began their program for foster children under the CHDP program. This program, now implemented statewide, is known as the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care.

Public Health Nurses (PHNs) are located with and work in coordination with CWS social workers and juvenile probation officers to ensure children receive preventive health care and treatment of identified health problems. PHNs also assist in the development and implementation of health service plans.



## PHNs

- Advocate for the health care needs of the children.
- Assist for parents in obtaining timely health care services.
- Expedite timely referrals for medical, dental, and mental health services.
- Follow children out-of-county to assure access to needed services.
- Facilitate referrals to early intervention providers, specialty providers, dentists, mental health providers, and other community programs.
- Oversee the creation and update of the Health and Education Passport (HEP), as required by law.
- Interpret medical reports for case workers and the courts.
- Educate social workers, judges, school nurses, probation officers, and others about the health care needs of the children.



**Safety, Well-Being, Permanency**