

Additional Facts

Nationally, there are approximately 500,000 children in the foster care system. California is among one of the highest states with children in foster care with about 70,000 children in out-of-home placement. Children placed in foster care range from infants to adolescents and encompass all races and ethnicities.

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) is a collaborative effort by San Diego County, which includes: Child Welfare Services, the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) Program, and Juvenile Probation.



For no-cost health exams for children in foster care and for non-foster care children, call

1-800-675-2229



County of San Diego CHDP Program.

For more information about the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC), please contact a foster care nurse in your area:

- South Region: (619) 585-5044
- North Coastal Region: (760) 754-3451
- North Inland Region: (760) 480-3453
- North Central Region: (858) 694-5422
- East Region: (619) 401-3647
- Mills: (619) 338-2506
- Mid-City: (619) 229-3464
- Residential: (619) 767-5009
- Probation: (858) 694-4419



What its children become, that will the community become.

- Suzanne LaFollette



**County of San Diego
Health & Human Services Agency**



**Health Care
Program for Children
in Foster Care**

Did You Know?

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



Safety, well-being, and permanency

Profile: Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care

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

In 1989, San Diego County began a foster care health program under the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program. Now known as the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC), this program is implemented statewide.

Public health nurses are located with and work in coordination with Child Welfare Services social workers and Juvenile Probation officers. Together, they ensure that children receive preventive healthcare and treatment of identified health problems. They also assist in the development and implementation of health service plans.

Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care: Public Health Nurses

- Advocate for health care needs of child.
- Assist foster parents in obtaining timely healthcare services.
- Expedite timely referrals for medical, dental, and mental health services.
- Follow children placed out-of-county to assure access to needed services.
- Serve as resource to facilitate referrals to early intervention providers, specialty providers, dentists, mental health providers, and other community programs.
- Oversee the creation and updating of the Health & Education Passport.
- Interpret medical reports for case workers and courts.
- Educate social workers, judges, school nurses, probation officers, and others about the health care of the child.