



## Child Health Specialty Clinics Early ACCESS Service Coordination

Early ACCESS is an interagency system to provide early intervention services in Iowa. [Child Health Specialty Clinics](#) (CHSC) is identified in [Iowa Administrative Code](#) as an Early ACCESS Signatory Agency with the Iowa Department of Education (Lead Agency) and the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.

CHSC has multidisciplinary regional and satellite offices throughout the state that provide services for children with special health care needs. Family navigators are parents of children and youth with special health care needs. They are trained to support families as a Family Peer Support Specialist (FPSS) through the Iowa Board of Certification. CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinators are family navigators that work from a community-based CHSC center to serve families within an established area.

As stated in the [Memorandum of Agreement](#) with the Iowa Department of Education, CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinators are responsible for serving children that are:

- medically complex
- born preterm
- drug exposed
- in foster care

CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinators may also provide service coordination to children with diagnosed conditions, including autism, or other developmental delays. Children eligible for Early ACCESS based on a diagnosed condition may benefit from having a CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinator given their connection with Iowa Health Care providers. The [Children with Special Health Care Needs \(CSHCN\) Screener](#) is another tool that may help identify children that would benefit from CHSC service coordination.

CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinators complete the Early ACCESS service coordinator competency training and are dedicated service coordinators. They fulfill the [roles and responsibilities of a service coordinator](#) as outlined in Early ACCESS procedures. This includes coordinating evaluations and assessments, facilitating the development, review, and evaluation of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) and facilitating the development of a transition plan to preschool or other services.

- CHSC provides training and professional development focused on family assessment and support and supervision for Early ACCESS procedures.
- CHSC may provide developmental screenings or clinical evaluation, but CHSC Early ACCESS service coordinators do not complete developmental assessment and evaluation activities.
- CHSC may review medical records to obtain health information that helps the IFSP team determine eligibility, develop outcomes, and implement interventions.

*The Iowa Department of Education, as the lead agency, partners with the Department of Public Health, Department of Human Services, Child Health Specialty Clinics, and Iowa's Area Education Agencies to provide Early ACCESS services.*