

**ADVOCACY RESOURCES**

**United Way/211.** <https://uwc.211ct.org/about/>

2-1-1 is a free, confidential information and referral service that connects people to essential health and human services 24 hours a day, seven days a week online and over the phone.

2-1-1 is fully certified in crisis intervention by the American Association of Suicidology and is certified by The Alliance of Information and Referral Systems (AIRS). AIRS is the professional association for over 1,200 community Information and Referral (I&R) providers.

**FAVOR**: [www.favor-ct.org](http://www.favor-ct.org/)  or 866-630-6055

Nonprofit organization that assists families in navigating medical and behavioral health care and educational systems.  Empowers families to drive legislative and policy change to improve the lives of citizens with disabilities in CT.

**Keeping Your New Baby Safe in the Time of COVID-19.** <https://files.constantcontact.com/0e4b0f2b001/db9eea68-5cb4-4dcc-bbc4-828f7633cb3d.pdf>

**Disability Rights Connecticut**:  <https://www.disrightsct.org/> or 800-842-7303.

Previously CT’s Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, this nonprofit provides a wide range of advocacy services to persons of all ages with physical, cognitive, emotional, and developmental disabilities.

**Connecticut’s Family Support Network**.  They can connect you to local families who have knowledge about local providers and schools.  The Family Support Network’s website is  [http://www.ctfsn.org/](http://www.ctfsn.org/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)

**Office of the Health Care Advocate.** <https://portal.ct.gov/OHA>

The mission of the Office of the Healthcare Advocate (OHA) focuses on assisting consumers in making informed decisions when selecting a health plan; assisting consumers to resolve problems with their health insurance plans and tracking trends of issues/problems, which may require administrative or legislative intervention, or advocacy with industry, the public, or other stakeholders.

**Office of the Child Advocate.** <https://www.ct.gov/oca/site/default.asp>

The OCA monitors and evaluates public and private agencies that are charged with the protection of children, and reviews state agency policies and procedures to ensure they protect children's rights and promote their best interest.  OCA helps to advocate for individual children, investigate complaints involving children served by publicly-funded agencies, and coach families/callers regarding how to navigate public service and information systems and advocate for their children.

**The Center for Children’s Advocacy.** <https://cca-ct.org/> or call 860 570 5327.

COVID-19 Information and Resources. <https://cca-ct.org/covid19-resource-fact-sheet/>

**Legal Services**

**Connecticut Legal Services.** <https://ctlegal.org/about/contact/> or call 860 244-0447

**Greater Hartford Legal Aid.** <https://www.ghla.org/> or call 860-541-5000

**New Legal InfoLine for COVID-19 related questions for people living in poverty. 860 541-5070**

**DCF Careline. 1-800-842-2288**

DCF Covid-19 Resource Page**:** <https://portal.ct.gov/DCF/COVID-19/HOME>

**Clifford Beers Clinic (New Haven) .** <https://www.cliffordbeers.org/>

###### CB new statewide, free support line: Reach Out Connecticut 1-844-TALK-4-CT

Clifford Beers **Covid-19 Resource Page**. https://www.cliffordbeers.org/covid-19-resources

**The Village for Children and Families** <https://thevillage.org/covid-19-crisis-response/>

The Village developed and continues to update a robust **COVID-19 Online Resource Center** filled with videos, downloads, links and support to help children, adults and families navigate the uncertainties of the COVID-19 crisis.

The Village implemented an “**Ask a Doc**” free non-emergency information line where callers can speak directly with Village staff psychologist Dr. Lisa Backus for free. She answers questions and connects callers to additional resources if needed.

**State Education Resource Center (SERC**). <http://ctserc.org/s/> or 860-632-1485.

This division of CT’s Department of Education provides information on regular and special education services available to CT students.  The “Parents’ Guide to Special Education in Connecticut” (<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/Parents_Guide_SE.pdf>) is very helpful and is only one of the extremely useful resources available to assist parents in planning and advocating for their children. This guide contains complaint forms and information on pursuing a complaint via SDE.

**SEEK CT**. <https://seekct.com/>

SEEK is an advocacy organization made up of parents, educational professionals, special education advocates and attorneys created to influence policy discussion and shape legislative efforts on behalf of students with disabilities. They share information regularly with the public about the rights of students with disabilities.

**SpEdCT**:  <http://www.spedconnecticut.org/>  or 860-560-1711.

SpEd is a non-profit organization composed of educational and legal advocates who can assist clients directly in advocating for their children in schools.

**CT Parent Advocacy Center (CPAC**):  <http://www.cpacinc.org/> or 800-445-2722.

CPAC is an organization that networks families throughout the state with other parents who have been through the special ed system with their kids.  They often can send volunteers to assist parents in navigating the system and coach them in PPT meetings with the school.

**SpedNet Wilton**:  <http://www.spednetwilton.org/>  or info@spednetwilton.org

SpedNet is a parent-to-parent support network for families of children with special needs.  They assist in educating and supporting families in becoming effective advocates for their children in their schools and communities.

**Autism Services and Resources CT (ASRC):**  <http://ct-asrc.org/> or 203-265-7717

Provides a wide variety of supports to people with autism and their families:  education and training workshops, support groups, resource guides and referrals, peer mentoring, benefits counseling, social programming, etc.

**Autism Families CT**:  <http://www.autismfamiliesct.org/>   or 860-474-3444

A wonderful organization in Newington that provides opportunities for families affected by autism to socialize and support one another.

**The Autism Center at the Hospital for Special Care** provides assessments and therapy services for children on the autism spectrum.  860-612-6381

**CT FEAT**: [www.ctfeat.org](http://www.ctfeat.org/)

Provides networking and education opportunities to parents raising children with autism.

**Department of Developmental Services (DDS**) Main:  866-737-0330 or <http://www.ct.gov/dds/site/default.asp>

DDS is the state agency that assists individuals with intellectual disability and their families

**DSS Husky Health.** <https://portal.ct.gov/HUSKY>

Provides information about HUSKY coverage, COVID-19, providers and benefits.