

Illinois

When a family or individual is faced with a progressive condition such as DM1 or DM2 they are often presented with additional financial expenses as well as loss of a steady income. This section attempts to gather financial resources that are available on a state level for persons living in the United States. By no means is this section complete; we invite you to share with us any resources you've identified.

This is an on-going project. We will add more resources as we gather them; please send us resources you know of that are not currently listed.

Please be advised that each organization has its own eligibility and application requirements. None of these organizations are affiliated with the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation. We hope you will share your experiences with us – let us know if you are successful in finding a good resource to help your family.

Financial Resources

Access Living Chicago: Access living is a multi-organizational group for those with disabilities. They offer information and referrals, advocacy support and training, independent living resources, peer counseling, help with employment, and more. <https://www.accessliving.org/index.php>

Chicago Department of Family Support and Services: DFSS is dedicated to supporting the needs of Chicago residents, especially those in need, from birth through the senior years. The department works to promote the independence and well-being of individuals and support families by providing direct assistance and administering resources from a network of organizations. These resources include children's, family, senior, disability, and work resources. <https://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/fss.html>

Envision Unlimited: Envision is a nonprofit social services organization that supports people of all ages with mental and developmental disabilities. They offer a wide variety of resources and services, including autism services, an art program, a horticultural program, senior services, business and vocational training, community programs, living programs, respite, and more. They also hold multiple annual events and provide financial services. <http://www.envisionunlimited.org/>

Family Resource Center on Disabilities: This organization provides information, education, resources, webinars and more to families and parents in the Chicago area. They hold trainings and events, and provide access to lists of resources for all sorts of needs, including financial and for families with autism. <https://frcd.org/>

South Chicago Parents and Friends: SCPF aims to support children and families with developmental disabilities. They offer family services, day and employment services, and community services. These include home and intake resources, independent living support and group living options, adult day training, employment support, and more. <http://scpf-inc.org/>

Autism Related Resources

Chicagoland Autism Connection: CAC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase awareness and accessibility for those with autism. They hold multiple annual events for families and friends, and offer resources and services for people and families with autism. <http://www.chicagoautism.org/index.html>

Footsteps of Change: Footsteps of Change provides effective therapy to individuals in need through evidence-based interventions, across all settings. They provide multiple different therapies and behavioral analysis for families, as well as presentations and school consultations for schools and professionals. The practice is rooted in applied behavior analysis. <http://footstepsofchange.com/home.html>

Spectrum Toy Store: Spectrum toy store specializes in toys, sensory items, books, and more focused on the needs of children with autism and other developmental disabilities. They also offer resources for children and educators, and Care Box, a monthly or biweekly subscription box that delivers special needs toys to your door. Spectrum also offers a summer camp, school year day program, and additional programs. <http://spectrumtoystore.com/>

Healthcare and Medication

All Kids: All Kids offers complete health insurance for your child. Doctors visits, hospital stays, prescription drugs, vision care, dental care, eyeglasses, regular check-ups and immunizations (shots) are all covered. All Kids also covers special services like medical equipment, speech therapy, and physical therapy for children in need.



FamilyCare: FamilyCare offers healthcare coverage to parents living with their children 18- years old, or younger, and covers relatives who are caring for children in place of their parents. Coverage is based on monthly income. Copays are less than \$5.

<https://www.illinois.gov/hfs/MedicalPrograms/AllKids/Pages/about.aspx>

Housing

Progress Center for Independent Living: Progress Center works with people with disabilities as peers and empowers them to live independent, productive lives within society while building dignity, self-sufficiency and self-confidence. <http://progresscil.org/>

Scholarships and Education

Marianjoy Scholarship: awards scholarships to students with disabilities. Must live in one of these counties: Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, or McHenry County.

<http://www.marianjoyfoundation.org/scholarship/Scholarship2.aspx>