

Become a Parent Mentor

The Maryland Department of Health Sickle Cell Disease Follow Up Program (SCD Program) follows newborns, children, and young adults through age 18, providing them and their families with information about Sickle Cell Disease and other hemoglobin disorders. Families and young adults receive information on what to expect from their provider and specialist, guides for living with Sickle Cell Disease, and other information pertaining to daycare, school, sports, transitioning to an adult provider, web resources, and organizations of interest to persons with Sickle Cell disease.

The SCD Program is in need of parent mentors to help guide parents of children and youth newly identified with sickle cell disease. **No experience is necessary**; the only requirement is that you be the parent/guardian of a child of any age with sickle cell disease and you are willing to share your experience and expertise. You will not only offer support but will serve as a role model for other family members, providing connections to the MDH SCD Follow Up Program and to community resources and encouraging appropriate medical follow up. You will receive training on serving as a parent mentor. All interested individuals will be considered regardless of race, color, ancestry, national origin, religion or religious creed, mental or physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, military or veteran status, citizenship, or other characteristics protected by state or federal law or local ordinance.

If you are interested in becoming a parent mentor, please contact Monika Piccardi RN BSN MS at Monika.Piccardi@maryland.gov for further details.

Parent mentors provide support and offer the voice of experience to families of infants, children, teens, and young adults while