

AUTISM WAIVER IMPLEMENTATION

September 4, 2009 (Revised)

Who is eligible for the Autism Waiver?

Potential participants must:

- Be at least 3 years of age and not more than 18 years of age;
- Be eligible for Missouri Medicaid;
- Be living in the community, with family, but have behavioral and/or social or communication deficits that: 1) require supervision which makes it difficult for the family to provide care in the home, and 2) interfere with the child participating in activities in the community.
- Have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) as defined in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistics Manual of Mental Disorders, American Psychiatric Association. (Includes autistic disorder; Asperger's syndrome; pervasive developmental disorder-not otherwise specified; childhood disintegrative disorder; and Rett's syndrome.) The diagnosis must be made by a qualified professional. Approved screening/diagnostic tools include:
 1. CARS - Childhood Autism Rating Scale,
 2. GARS - Gilliam Autism Rating Scale,
 3. M-CHAT- Modified Checklist for Autism in Toddlers,
 4. PDDST-II - Pervasive Developmental Disorders Screening Test, Second Edition,
 5. ADOS - Autism Diagnostic Observation Scale Interview, Revised Generic and Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised,
 6. ADI - Autism Diagnostic Interview, Revised, or
 7. ASDS - Asperger Syndrome Diagnostic Scale;
- Be determined to meet ICF/MR Level of Care; and
- Have a determination by the Regional Office that the individual's need for Autism Waiver Services can be met at an annual cost that will not exceed \$22,000.

Why are individuals under the age of 3 and individuals over the age of 18 not eligible?

The appropriation that funds the waiver is specific to individuals 18 and under. Individuals under the age of 3, are eligible for First Steps and should receive service through that program.

What services are covered?

The Autism Waiver includes only 1 new service that is not already used in one or more of the other HCBS Waivers the Division operates. The new service is Behavior Analysis Services. It has three components, which will each have a distinct service code: Senior Behavior Consultant, Behavior Intervention Specialist, and Functional Behavior Assessment. Central Office Contract Unit is working to include this definition in the POS Catalog so contracting with providers can begin and be in the system for authorizing services.

The following services which have the same definition and provider qualifications as in the other HCBS waivers operated by the Division are also included:

- Personal Assistant
- In-Home Respite
- Out-of-Home Respite
- Environmental Accessibility Adaptations
- Specialized Medical Equipment and Supplies (Adaptive Equipment)
- Support Broker
- Transportation

Why wasn't Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) included as a service?

ABA is not a service. ABA is a method of implementing services/supports. The Behavior Analysis Service is a broadly defined behavioral service. As determined appropriate, the Senior Behavior Consultant will be able to design and recommend ABA programs after conducting a functional behavior assessment using Behavior Intervention Specialist and Personal Assistant Services.

Is there a cap on the amount of waiver services an individual can receive?

The waiver is capped at \$22,000 per year per participant.

Is there a limitation on how long a person can participate in the Autism Waiver?

An individual must be at least 3 years old and may not be more than 18 years old. Individuals who reach 18 must be transitioned to other services before the age of 19. Individuals must continue to meet all eligibility criteria to continue participation.

Can individuals self-direct services in the Autism Waiver?

Yes, individuals have the choice of self-directing the following waiver services: personal assistant, support broker, and in-home-respite.

Is the Behavior Analysis Service limited to only 90 days?

No, the initial authorization for the Senior Behavior Consultant Service and/or Behavior Intervention Specialist will only be for 90 days. After the first 90 days one subsequent authorization may be approved by the Regional Office for another 90 days and thereafter additional authorizations will need to be approved by the District Administrator.