

**DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
THE AUTISM DIVISION**

500 Harrison Avenue | Boston, MA 02118

MESSAGE TO FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

**An Important Message to Massachusetts Families
With Children Under Age 9
Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder
Open Request Application Period **October 16, 2020 to October 31, 2020****

The Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) runs an Autism Waiver Program that provides one-to-one interventions to help children with autism who exhibit severe behavior, social and communication problems through a service called **Expanded Habilitation, Education** (intensive in-home services and supports). This service occurs in the child's home or other natural settings under the supervision of trained clinical staff and is available for a total of three years. The program also provides related support services such as community integration activities and respite. At the conclusion of the three years of intensive services, a child may access supplemental services that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program until the child's 9th birthday.

Eligibility: the following requirements are necessary for participation in this waiver program:

1. The child must have a **confirmed diagnosis** of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, subject to verification by the Department of Developmental Services.
2. The child has not yet reached his/her 9th birthday. Children birth through age 8 may participate.
3. The child is a resident of Massachusetts.
4. The child meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with an Intellectual Disability (ICF/ID) as assessed by DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES.
5. The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home and community.
6. The child must be able to be safely served in the community.
7. The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver.
8. The child must be found by the MassHealth agency to be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage, based on family income. **For families who have not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of the filing of the Waiver Program Request Form.** (Instructions on how to apply for MassHealth are on the next page)

The Autism Waiver Program maintains reserved capacity (30 statewide slots) for children who are age 3 and transitioning out of Early Intervention. Children who meet the eligibility criteria for the program can be served up to their 9th birthday. All waiver services require that the child continues to meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements for the Waiver Program throughout their enrollment.

While the Autism Waiver Program is near capacity currently, there are always children who leave the program because they turn 9 or for other reasons. Therefore, we want a current applicant pool to draw from when these spots become available for the Program. The Autism Division is offering an opportunity to apply for the current applicant pool through an open request application period. The Autism Division held its last open request in October 2019.

The 2020 Open Request period runs from October 16 - October 31, 2020. Please be sure to MAIL or EMAIL the *Open Request Application* between October 16 and October 31. The Autism Division will discard submissions outside of this timeframe. If you submitted an application during the last open request application period in October 2019, YOU MUST RESUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR 2020.

How to Participate in the Open Request Process:

1. Get a copy of the *Open Request Application*

- a. Please contact your local Autism Support Center (attached) to request the *Open Request Application*.
- b. Autism Support Centers are available to help you complete the application.
- c. All forms are also posted on the DDS website www.mass.gov/DDS under ‘DDS Autism Waiver Services’

2. Complete the *Open Request Application*. You will need your:

- a. child’s date of birth
- b. child’s social security number
- c. child’s MassHealth ID number

3. Submit the *Open Request Application*:

- a. Applications must have a Postmark or Date Stamp between October 16, 2020 and October 31, 2020.
- b. Applications received outside of this designated time period will be discarded.
- c. Complete the application in pen and print clearly.
- d. Sign the application in pen.
- e. ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD—The Autism Division will discard multiple applications

4. The Autism Division is NOT accepting hand delivered applications, applications must be mailed to:

**Department of Developmental Services
Autism Division
Att. Autism Program Application Form
500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118**

It is a priority of the Autism Division of DDS to ensure that the process for requesting participation for the Autism Waiver Program is fully accessible to families and children with autism who are from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds. Materials are available in Arabic, Burmese, Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese), Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese (European), Spanish, Khmer, Vietnamese, Nepali and Somali

Translation and interpretation are available free of charge to all participants.

How to Apply for MassHealth: You can apply for MassHealth in any of the following ways:

- If you have an account, sign into mahealthconnector.org and apply for MassHealth
- If you do not have an account, the quickest way is to apply online and create a secure online account at mahealthconnector.org.
- Fill out and sign the [Massachusetts Application for Health and Dental Coverage and Help Paying Costs](#) and mail to:

**Health Insurance Processing Center
P.O. Box 4405
Taunton, MA 02780
or Fax to 1-857-323-8300**

- Call the MassHealth Member Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900 (TTY: 1-800- 497-4648 for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled) or 1-877-MA ENROLL (877-623-6765).
- Visit one of the 4 MassHealth Enrollment Centers (MEC) listed below and apply in person.

MassHealth Enrollment Center – Chelsea

45 Spruce Street Chelsea, MA 02150
#1-800-841-2900 TTY 1-888-665-9997

MassHealth Enrollment Center – Tewksbury

367 East Street Tewksbury, MA 01876
#1-800-841-2900 TTY 1-888-665-9997

MassHealth Enrollment Center-Springfield

88 Industry Avenue, Suite D Springfield, MA 01104
#1-800-841-2900 TTY 1-888-665-99

MassHealth Enrollment Center- Taunton

21 Spring Street, Suite 4 Taunton, MA 02780
#1-800-841-2900 TTY 1-888-665-9997

For additional information about the Autism Waiver Program, contact your local Autism Support Center below or email AutismDivision@state.ma.us. Or call the Autism Division at DDS at 617-624-7518.

Western Massachusetts**Pathlight: Autism Connections**

41 Russell Street
Hadley, MA 01035 | 413-585-8010

75 South Church Street, #402
Pittsfield, MA 01201 | 413-443-4780

220 Brookdale Drive
Springfield MA 01104 | 413-732-0531

Central Massachusetts**HMEA: Autism Resource Central**

712 Planation Street
Worcester, MA 01605 | 508-835-4278

Metro West of Boston**Autism Alliance of MetroWest (AAMW)**

1881 Worcester Rd, # 100A
Framingham, MA 01701 | 508-652-9900

Greater Boston**Towards Independent Living and Learning, Inc. (TILL)****Autism Support Center**

20 Eastbrook Road
Dedham, MA 02026 | 781-302-4835

Norfolk County**The Arc of South Norfolk: The Family Autism Center**

789 Clapboardtree Street
Westwood, MA 02090 | 781-762-4001

Southeastern Massachusetts**Community Autism Resources (CAR)**

33 James Reynolds Road Unit C,
Swansea, MA 02777 | 800-588-9239 | 508-379-0371

120 Main Street 2nd Floor,
Bridgewater, MA 02324 | 508-807-4930

Northeastern Massachusetts**Northeast ARC (NEARC) The Autism Support Center**

6 Southside Road
Danvers, MA 01923 | 978-777-9135

www.mass.gov/DDS-autism-waiver-services

Information is also available in:

Arabic, Burmese, Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese), Haitian Creole, Cape Verdean Creole, Portuguese (European), Spanish, Khmer, Vietnamese, Nepali and Somali