DDS Children’s Autism Waiver Program Overview

May 27, 2025

Autism Commission

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DDS Children’s Autism Waiver Program Managers

 Agenda

* Funding Source
* Open Interest Period
* Eligibility Requirements
* AWP Services
* Intensive Program vs Step Down
* Autism Clinical Manager Role
* Autism Support Broker Role
* Reasons for Withdrawal

Funding Source

Children's Autism Spectrum Disorder Waiver, a Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver

* Approval from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS)
	+ 5-year approvals
* AWP is a MassHealth Waiver Program that is run by the Department of Developmental Services

Open Interest Period

* CMS requirement
* Occurs yearly during the last 2 weeks of October
* Accept interest forms via email or regular mail
* Compile the list after the Open Interest Period
	+ Randomized by region
	+ AWP has 5 regions
* Open Interest List expires after one year
* Child does not have to be DDS eligible when they send in the form

Eligibility Requirements

* Verified Diagnosis of Autism
* Resident of Massachusetts
* MassHealth Standard
* Under the age of 10
* Level of Care
* Responsible Parent/Guardian willing to participate/have services in the home and community
* Able to be safely served in the community
* Child must be DDS eligible to participate in the AWP
	+ It is possible to be DDS eligible and not AWP eligible
	+ It is not possible to be DDS ineligible and AWP eligible

AWP Services

* Self-Direction Model
* Main Focus
	+ In-Home Behavioral Therapy
		- ABA/Floor time/RDI- needs to be scientifically based
	+ Average of 6 hours a week of in home 1:1 behavioral therapy from a Direct Support Worker (DSW)
	+ Consultation/Parent training from a Senior Level Therapist (SLT)
* Ancillary Services
	+ Respite
	+ Home and Vehicle safety
	+ Sensory Items
	+ Community Programs
	+ Community Integration
	+ Home delivered meals
	+ Family Training
	+ Homemaker

Intensive Program vs. Step Down

**Intensive Program**

* First 3 years
* Budgets up to $28,000 based on assessed need
* In-home behavioral therapy requirement
* Access to all ancillary services

**Step Down**

* Year 4 through child leaving program
* Budgets up to $9,000 based on assessed need
* In-home behavioral therapy not required
* Behavioral Consultation requirement
* Access to all ancillary services

Autism Clinical Manager (ACM)

* Provide program oversight and management to ensure compliance with CMS
* Conduct eligibility assessments for DDS and AWP as needed
* Meet with potential families to explain the AWP and get parent consent to enroll
* Help create the Autism Support Plan
* Meet quarterly with families, Autism Support Brokers, and providers to discuss participant’s progress
* Complete annual levels of care for participants
* Provide support to families, brokers and other team contacts as needed
* Provides indirect supervision to the Autism Support Brokers

Autism Support Broker (ASB)

* Work at one of the 7 DDS funded Autism Support Centers (ASC)
* Parent has choice of which ASC they want to work with
* Provide day to day support to the families
* Assist in creating the Autism Support Plan
* Assist the family in identifying, interviewing, and hiring providers to work with their child
* Assist providers with contracts and timesheets
* Process invoices for approved purchases
* Meet with the family, in their home, minimum of once a month
* Attend quarterly meetings
* Notifies the ACM of issues as they arise

Reasons for Withdrawal

* Child turns 10
* Moves out of state
* Is placed in a residential program
* Gets accepted to another DDS program (ie-DESE)
* Loses MassHealth Standard
* No longer meets the Level of Care
* Family chooses to voluntarily withdraw
* Family does not comply with waiver regulations and/or policies