



## 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 Registration October 17, 2019 to October 31, 2019

The Autism Division of the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) runs a 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 waiver also provides related support services such as community integration activities, **individual goods and services**, 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 9<sup>th</sup> birthday.

While the Autism Waiver Program is near capacity at this time, 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. Therefore, the Autism Division is offering an opportunity to apply for the waiver through an open request application period. The Autism Division held its last open request registration in October, **2018. The open request period runs from October 17 - October 31. Please be sure to MAIL or EMAIL the application between October 17 and October 31. The Autism Division will discard submissions outside of this timeframe.**

The Autism Program maintains reserved capacity for children who are age 3 and transitioning out of Early Intervention. This means that the Autism Division reserves 20 statewide slots for children who are age 3. These children will still need to meet all relevant financial and clinical eligibility standards required for entry into the Program.

The Autism Waiver serves children up until their 9<sup>th</sup> birthday, with an autism spectrum disorder who meet the eligibility criteria for the Waiver Program. All waiver services require that the child continues to meet the financial and clinical eligibility requirements for the Waiver Program.

**This message is to notify you about the eligibility requirements for the Autism Waiver Program:**

**Eligibility:** the following requirements are necessary for participation in this 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 Eligibility Request Form.**

**How to Apply for MassHealth:** You can submit your application for MassHealth in any of the following ways:

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Sign on to your account at [MAhealthconnector.org](http://MAhealthconnector.org). You can create an online account if you do not already have one. Applying online may be a faster way for you to get coverage than mailing a paper application.

Mail your filled-out, signed application to  
Health Insurance Processing Center  
P.O. Box 4405  
Taunton, MA 02780

Fax your filled-out, signed application to 1-857-323-8300.

Call the MassHealth Customer Service Center at 1-800-841-2900  
(TTY: 1-877-623-7773 for people who are Deaf, hard of hearing, or speech disabled) or 1-877-MA ENROLL  
(877-623-6765).

Visit a MassHealth Enrollment Center (MEC) to apply in person. See the Member Booklet for Health Coverage and Help Paying Costs for a list of MEC addresses.

### How to Participate in the Eligibility Process:

#### 1. Get a copy of the Autism Program Request Form

- a. Please contact your local Autism Support Center (listed below) to request the Application Form.
- b. The Autism Support Centers are available to help you complete Application Form.
- c. The Autism Division will post all forms on the DDS website:
  - [www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS) under 'Autism Spectrum Services'

#### 2. Complete the Autism Program Application Form

To complete this Form you will need:

1. your child's date of birth
2. your child's social security number
3. your child's MassHealth ID number

#### 3. Submit the Autism Program Eligibility Application Form

- All Applications Must have a Postmark or Date Stamp between **October 17, 2019 and October 31, 2019**.
- The Autism Division will discard forms outside of this designated time period.
- Please complete the Autism Waiver Request form in Pen and Print Clearly.
- Please Sign the Form in Pen.
- ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD—The Autism Division will discard multiple forms
- Please Mail Form (The Autism Division is not accepting hand delivered forms) to:

**AUTISM DIVISION of DDS**

**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 eligibility for the Autism Waiver Program is fully accessible to families and children with autism who are from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds.

**Translation and interpretation is available free of charge to all participants.**

This Notice and other waiver information is available on the DDS web-site at [www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS) under 'Autism Spectrum Services' and at the DDS funded Autism Support Centers. Materials are available in Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian-Creole, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese. For additional information about the

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Autism Waiver Program, contact your local Autism Support Center or email [AutismDivision@state.ma.us](mailto:AutismDivision@state.ma.us). Or call the Autism Division at DDS at 617-624-7518.

## **Listing of the Autism Support Centers:**

### **Pathlight: Autism Connections:**

116 Pleasant Street  
Easthampton, MA, 01027  
#413-529-2428: Serving Western, MA

### **Advocates: Autism Alliance of MetroWest (AAMW):**

1881 Worcester Road Suite 100A  
Framingham, Ma, 01701  
#508-652-9900: Serving Metro West of Boston

### **Community Autism Resources (CAR):**

33 James Reynolds Rd, Unit C  
Swansea, MA 02777  
#508-379-0371: Serving Southeastern, MA

### **HMEA: Autism Resource Center:**

712 Plantation Street  
Worcester, MA 01605  
#508-835-3723: Serving: Central, MA

### **NEARC: The Autism Support Center:**

6 Southside Road  
Danvers, MA 01923  
#978-777-9135: Serving Northeastern, MA

### **TILL, Inc.: Autism Support Center:**

20 Eastbrook Road  
Dedham, MA 02026  
#781-302-4600 x 4661: Serving Greater Boston

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

789 Clapboardtree Street  
Westwood, MA 02090  
#781-762-4001, X. 395 Serving Norfolk County Area

[www.mass.gov/DDS](http://www.mass.gov/DDS)

Autism Spectrum Services  
Information is also available in:

Arabic, Amharic, Chinese, French,  
Gujarati, Haitian-Creole, Khmer,  
Portuguese, Russian,  
Spanish, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese