Children are served in the home and the community

CALL THE AUTISM WAIVER CONTACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Jurisdiction	Local School System	Early Intervention
Allegany	301-759-2051	301-689-0466
Anne Arundel	410-222-1692	410-222-6911
Baltimore City	410-396-8904	410-396-8904
Baltimore County	410-887-4130	410-887-4130
Calvert	410-535-7414	410-535-7414
Caroline	410-479-3246	410-479-3246
Carroll	410-751-3033	410-876-4437x283
Cecil	410-996-5445	410-996-5444
Charles	301-934-7396	301-753-1745
Dorchester	410-221-0837	410-221-0837
Frederick	301-644-5274	301-631-3367
Garrett	301-334-7658	301-334-1189
Harford	410-588-5246	410-638-3823
Howard	410-313-5353	410-313-7017
Kent	410-778-7130	410-778-7130
Montgomery	301-279-3936	301-279-3936
Prince George's	301-459-2144	301-459-2144
Queen Anne's	410-758-2403	410-758-2403 x.182
St. Mary's	301-475-5636	301-475-4393
Somerset	410-651-1616	410-986-2044
Talbot	410-822-0330	410-822-0330
Washington	301-766-8222	301-766-8217
Wicomico	410-677-4493	410-543-6920
Worcester	410-632-5033	410-632-5033

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE DIVISION OF WAIVER PROGRAMS AT 410-767-5220

MARTIN O'MALLEY
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THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/ EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

Special Services Branch/
Health Related Resources
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Phone: 410-767-1446
Fax: 410-333-0298
TTY/TDD: 410-333-0731

MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/ EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

THE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED AUTISM WAIVER PROGRAM

Basic Questions and Answers

Medical Assistance and Medical Assistance Waivers

What is a Medical Assistance Waiver?

Medical Assistance is a partnership between the Federal Government and a State to provide medical care to individuals and families who meet certain income guidelines or have certain disabilities. A Medical Assistance waiver is approved by the Federal government and allows a State to operate under special rules and regulations instead of usual Medicaid requirements. Waiver programs help an eligible person to receive services in the home and in the community rather than in an institution. Income eligibility guidelines relate only to the individual applying for the waiver and do not consider the family's income. Waiver programs vary by State, type of program within a State, the eligibility requirements and package of services. The number of people served and monies available also may vary.

What is special about Maryland's Home and Community Based Services Waiver for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- ***Services include:***
  - ***Intensive Individual Support Services***
  - ***Residential Habilitation***
  - ***Environmental Accessibility Adaptations***
  - ***Family Training***
  - ***Therapeutic Integration Services***
  - ***Respite Care***
  - ***Supported Employment***
- ***Limited enrollment: There are a specific number of "slots" each year.***

Children and families benefit from medical assistance

Maryland's Home and Community Based Autism Waiver Program

Who is eligible for the Autism Waiver?

Eligibility is determined by:

- **Technical guidelines** stating that a child must be a Maryland resident, aged 1 through 21, diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM-IV, 299.00/299.80) and, if younger than 3 years of age, have an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or, if older than 3 years of age through the end of the school year that the child turns 21, have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) with more than 12 hours per week of special education and related services. A child currently enrolled in the waiver must use at least one waiver service in 12 month period. If enrolled in another Medicaid Waiver, the family must choose which waiver is best suited to the needs of their child.
- **Medical criteria** include basic and functional activities of daily living and maladaptive behaviors which meet the criteria for an institutional level of care but instead may be addressed in the home and community through waiver services.
- **Financial requirements** are applied only to the child, considered a family of one, who must meet certain income and resources criteria.

What should I do if I think my child would be eligible for the Autism Waiver but all the "slots" are full? The Waiver serves 900 children annually. Every July 1st a number of slots become available through attrition. Those slots will be offered on a first come, first served basis from children listed on the Registry.

THE WAIVER IS CLOSED, CALL:
THE AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY
1-866-417-3480 (TOLL FREE)

The Statewide Registry will notify you when you can apply for an available slot.

What steps should a parent/guardian take to enroll their child in the Autism Waiver?

- **Call** the local school system if the child is age 3 or older, or the early intervention agency if younger than three, to speak to the Autism Waiver contact. If unable to reach the local contact, call the Autism Waiver Specialist at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE).*
- **Meet** with the child's assigned service coordinator to complete the financial eligibility form.
- **Contribute** to the development of a **Level of Care**, to be signed by a Maryland licensed psychologist or certified school psychologist.
- **Attend** a multidisciplinary team meeting to develop a **Plan of Care**.

How will the parent/guardian know when the child is enrolled in the autism waiver?

Technical and medical information is forwarded to MSDE and then to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to be linked to financial eligibility. The parent is notified by the State when the child is eligible.

Parents/ guardians may appeal the findings through DHMH.

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