

DDSD AUTISM FLEXIBLE SERVICES PROGRAM FACT SHEET

The New Mexico Department of Health - Developmental Disabilities Supports Division (DDSD) is excited to announce a new Autism Flexible Services Program. Several organizations have worked with DDSD to design this program to help meet the needs of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

What is the purpose of the Autism Flexible Services Program?

The purpose of this program is to provide access to funding for a variety of services and supports (not goods) for families of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who are not eligible for Medicaid services. The program is designed to be flexible to enable families to access the services they need for to support their child and family. The flexibility of the program also allows families to access services in their community with the understanding that not all services (including Applied Behavioral Analysis*) are available in all communities statewide.

How much funding can families apply for?

For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 families can apply for:

- Option 1: Up to \$2,500 for Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)*, including copays or deductibles for children covered by private insurance, as well private pay.
- Option 2: Up to \$1,250 for other autism / family support services

Who is eligible?

The child / Individual must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for funding:

- 1) Be 21 years of age or younger at the date of application.
- 2) Not eligible for Medicaid.
- 3) Have a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in accordance with the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and the International Statistical Classification of Disease and Related Health Problems (ICD).

What services can be funded?

Services can include, but are not limited to:

1. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) provider agencies enrolled and approved by Medicaid.
2. Therapists or provider agencies who are licensed or approved by Medicaid or commercial insurance companies, including but not limited to: Behavior Therapy/Counseling; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Speech/Language Therapy; Psychologists; Social Workers; and Behavior Support Consultants.
3. Other therapeutic services and supports including: social skills training; music therapy; dance therapy; art therapy; therapeutic riding; and adaptive sports programs.

4. Family Support programs including but not limited to: DDSD approved respite providers and parent training that may include Autism specific conferences and workshops.
5. Businesses / organizations that provide recreational activities such as summer camps and after school programs, participant gym memberships, participant pool memberships, etc.

What does the Autism Flexible Services Program not pay for?

The following are not funded:

1. Services currently provided and funded by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part B special education / Part C early intervention.
2. Unestablished models of treatment including but not limited to: facilitated communication; sensory integration; auditory integration training, diets.
3. Direct reimbursements to family members.
4. Goods including but not limited to: electronics, equipment, medications, supplements.
5. Subscriptions including but not limited to: internet access, cell phone, cable.
6. Services provided prior to DDSD receiving the signed Notification of Award letter from the individual / parent / legal guardian.

How to access services?

An individual / parent / legal guardian submitting the application is responsible for finding the provider(s) to serve the child and family. The family should ask the provider when they would be able to begin services and indicate this on the application.

How are services paid for?

Providers will be paid directly by Acumen, which is a Fiscal Management Agency under contract with DDSD. To be paid, providers must be willing to complete a W-9 and submit monthly invoices to Acumen. The parent / legal guardian is responsible for giving a Provider Packet to the provider. The Provider Packet will include an Instruction sheet, W-9 and the invoice. The provider is responsible to complete and submit these required documents to Acumen to receive payment.

If a family has more than one child / individual with ASD can they apply for funding for both children?

If a family has multiple children that meet the eligibility criteria for this program the parent / legal guardian must submit a separate application for each child / individual with ASD.

What is the enrollment period?

The enrollment period is the time within which application for the Autism Flexible Services Program must be received. For this current year applications must be received **by Friday January 6, 2017 at 5:00 pm.**

Is the funding available on a first come / first served basis?

No. All applications received during the enrollment period will be reviewed for program eligibility. If there are more applications received than there is funding available, the DDS shall use a well-documented lottery process. Any applications received after Friday, January 6, 2017 will be added to a waiting list. All families will receive a notification regarding whether they have been awarded funding.

Will funding be available in future years?

Funding is based on appropriation from the New Mexico State Legislature. If funding is continued, all individuals / parents / legal guardians will be required to apply for funding through the Autism Flexible Services Program each fiscal year (July 01 through June 30).

Will there be an evaluation of the Autism Flexible Services Program?

DDS will conduct an evaluation of Autism Flexible Services Program that will include data regarding services provided and survey responses from parents regarding the impact of the services for their child and family.

Where do families access the application?

Application materials are available at www.cdd.unm.edu/autism/portal/
Families can also call one of the numbers below and ask for the application to be mailed to them.

Can families get help to complete their application?

For more information and for help in completing the application please contact any of the following partners:

- DOH/Developmental Disabilities Support Division: Sbicca Brodeur (505) 690-6942 or Joyce Solisz at (505) 476-8974 or toll Free (877) 696-1472
- NM Autism Society: Sarah Baca 505-332-0306
- Parents Reaching Out (PRO): Melissa Reid-Ciferri 505-247-0192 or 1-800-524-5176
- UNM Autism Programs: Lauriann King 505-272-1852 or 1-800- 270-1861
- Governor's Commission on Disabilities: Guy Surdi 505-476-0420

* Behavior analysis focuses on the principles that explain how learning takes place. Through decades of research, the field of behavior analysis has developed many techniques for increasing useful behaviors and reducing those that may cause harm or interfere with learning. Applied behavior analysis (ABA) is the use of these techniques and principles to bring about meaningful and positive change in behavior.

Source: Autism Speaks