

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 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:**
 - Day Habilitation
 - Environmental
 - Accessibility Adaptations
 - Family Training
 - Residential Habilitation
 - 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 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 semester that the child turns 21, have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) with more than 15 hours per week of special education and related services. A child currently enrolled in another Medicaid Waiver should be enrolled in the one best suited to the needs of the child and family.
- **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** that 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?

Autism Waiver slots are offered on a first come, first served basis. When the available slots are full, the waiver is closed to new applicants.

**CALL TODAY TO RESERVE A SPOT
FOR YOUR CHILD:**

**THE AUTISM WAIVER REGISTRY
1-866-417-3480 (TOLL FREE)**

The Statewide Registry will notify you when you

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 employed by a local school system.
- **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.

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

Divisional and State Interagency
Support Branch/
Health Related Resources

200 W. Baltimore
Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201

Phone: 410-767-1446
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Children are served in the home and the community

CALL THE AUTISM WAIVER CONTACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Local School System</u>	<u>Early Intervention</u>
Allegany	301-759-2051	301-689-0466
Anne Arundel	410-222-3803	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	410-751-3033
Cecil	410-996-5445	410-996-5444
Charles	301-932-8610 x.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	410-313-66576	410-313-7017
Kent	410-778-7130	410-778-7130
Montgomery	301-279-3936	240-777-1778
Prince George's	301-408-5500 x.303	301-985-3811
Queen Anne's	410-758-2403	410-758-2403 x.182
St. Mary's	301-475-5636	301-475-4176
Somerset	410-968-2044	410-986-2044
Talbot	410-822-0330	410-822-0330
Washington	301-766-2971	301-766-8217
Wicomico	410-677-4493	410-543-6920
Worcester	410-632-2582	410-632-2582

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

ROBERT L. EHRlich, JR.
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NANCY S. GRASMICK
STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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**THE MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES**

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**MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DIVISION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION/
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THE MEDICAID HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED AUTISM WAIVER PROGRAM



Basic Questions and Answers