

**NEWS from the North Dakota Department of Human Services
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Bismarck N.D. 58505**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Autism Spectrum Disorder voucher program applications are available June 1 for the upcoming year

BISMARCK, N.D. – Families of children with autism spectrum disorder ages 3 to 17 can apply, beginning June 1, for autism voucher program services for the upcoming state fiscal year that starts July 1. The annual enrollment opportunity is open to both new and participating families.

Vouchers help pay for respite care for family caregivers, assistive technology such as specialized sensory or safety equipment, training, and other approved support services that enhance the quality of life of qualifying children and help meet the unique needs of their families.

The program provides vouchers totaling up to \$12,500 per year, per participating child, and is intended to fill a gap in non-therapy related services for families that do not qualify for other help.

To qualify, household income for a family with a child diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder cannot exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level, which is \$4,100 a month for a family of four. Children who are receiving services through a Medicaid waiver are not eligible for the autism spectrum disorder voucher.

Participation is limited to 53 children at a time. Families are served on a first come, first served basis and must apply annually.

To apply, families need to complete the application found online at <https://www.nd.gov/eforms/Doc/sfn60611.pdf>.

They should submit the completed application and required documentation by mail, email or fax to the North Dakota Department of Human Services' Medical Services Division, attention Katherine Barchenger, at 600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 325, Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0250, dhsautism@nd.gov or fax 701-328-4875. Individuals with questions can call 701-328-4630, toll-free 800-755-2604, or ND Relay TTY 800-366-6888.

Interested individuals can find more information about the department's autism spectrum disorder services online at www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/index.html.

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