

MEDICAID AUTISM WAIVER, STATE AUTISM VOUCHER AND STATE AUTISM PLAN

Krista Fremming, Assistant Director, Medical Services
Interim Human Services Committee – Senator Lee, Chair
August 3, 2021

MEDICAID AUTISM WAIVER

Overview	Ages: Birth through 13 (will increase to through age 15 on November 1, 2021); 96 slots (will increase to 150 slots on November 1, 2021); 81 children on waitlist (as of July 22, 2021)
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Service Management – up to 16 hours per month• Assistive Technology – up to \$5,000 for the life of enrollment• Respite – up to 40 hours per month• Children who are enrolled in a Medicaid waiver receive all Medicaid State Plan benefits
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a diagnosis of ASD from a professional able to diagnose• Not eligible or receiving services through another Medicaid waiver• Meets Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) level of care<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Two ways to be eligible<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Score of 70 or below on the Vineland 3 assessment▪ Score between 71-85 with a maladaptive score of over 20 on the Vineland 3 assessment• Requires supports for health and safety• Lives with a primary caregiver who is capable of self-directing services• North Dakota resident
Financial Eligibility	Child qualifies based on Vineland 3 score and availability of slots on the waiver. Once this is determined, family completes application for Medicaid through the Human Service Zone. For waiver eligibility, only child's income is counted.
Cost per child	Average cost per child per year = \$14,688 (November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019) based on the CMS 372 report
Funding source	Split between the state and CMS at the current Medicaid FMAP.

MEDICAID AUTISM WAIVER HISTORICAL SPENDING/UTILIZATION

Waiver Year (WY) (November-October)	Total Number of Slots Utilized	Average Waiver Services Spending Per Child	Average State Plan Services Spending Per Child	Total Waiver Spending	Total Waiver Appropriation
2022*					\$805,185
2021**	96			\$166,046~	\$1,282,386
2020**	96			\$358,713	\$1,282,386
2019	82	\$4,361	\$10,327	\$357,633	\$1,681,990
2018	77	\$3,840***	\$10,821	\$295,673	\$1,681,990
2017	46	\$21,170	\$7,180	\$973,824	\$2,517,548
2016	46	\$30,757	\$4,815	\$1,414,831	\$2,517,548

*WY 2022 does not begin until November 1, 2021.

~WY 2021 expenditures will increase. Providers have up to a year to submit claims after services were rendered.

**WYs 2020 and 2021 are not yet finalized on the CMS 372 report.

***ABA services were transitioned to the State Plan in WY 2018.



STATE AUTISM VOUCHER

Overview	Ages: 3 through 17; child maximum is \$7,500 per year
Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistive Technology• Training• Other approved support services that enhance the quality of life of children with ASD• The goal is to address gaps in non-therapy related services and to provide education and support to families who may not qualify for other help
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a diagnosis of ASD from a professional able to diagnose• Not receiving services through any Medicaid waiver• The child's support needs cannot be obtained through insurance or through other service systems, including education and behavioral health systems• The child's needs cannot be met by a generic service or support• The child lives with the child's parent, custodian, or legal guardian• The child has been a North Dakota resident for the past 6 months
Financial Eligibility	Household income must be below 200% of federal poverty level. Current income levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family of 2=\$2,874 per month• Family of 3=\$3,620 per month• Family of 4=\$4,367 per month
Cost per child	Average cost per child per year = \$2,930 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021)
Funding source	All state general funds.

AUTISM VOUCHER HISTORICAL SPENDING/UTILIZATION

State Fiscal Year (SFY)	Total Number of Enrolled Children	New Children (were not enrolled before)	Number of Children also enrolled in Medicaid	Number of Children Who Used Voucher	Number of Children Who Did Not Use Voucher	Average Spending Per Child Who Used Voucher	Total Voucher Spending	Total Voucher Appropriation
2022*	17**	2	17	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	\$150,000
2021	48	19	25	22	26	\$2,938	\$141,022	\$662,505
2020	48	32	37	43	5	\$3,187	\$152,970	\$662,505
2019	39	16	38	30	9	\$4,867	\$189,807	\$662,505
2018	52	18	32	45	7	\$4,974	\$258,671	\$662,505
2017	50	26	33	48	2	\$5,523	\$276,167	\$537,504
2016	43	25	25	34	9	\$3,449	\$148,327	\$537,504

*SFY22 – program year just began on July 1, 2021, so these numbers will all increase.
 **As of July 22, 2021, the Department has 12 applications pending for financial determinations.

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TASK FORCE

- Senate Bill No. 2174 (2009), codified as Section 50-06-32, established an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Task Force consisting of the State Health Officer or designee, the executive director of the Department of Human Services or designee, the superintendent of public instruction or designee, the executive director of the Protection and Advocacy Project or designee, and the following members appointed by the Governor:
 - A pediatrician with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - A psychologist with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - A college of education faculty member with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - A behavioral specialist;
 - A licensed teacher with expertise in the area of autism spectrum disorder;
 - An occupational therapist;
 - A representative of a health insurance company doing business in this state;
 - A representative of a licensed residential care facility that provides care and services to individuals with autism spectrum disorder;
 - A representative who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe;
 - An adult self advocate with autism spectrum disorder;
 - A parent of a child with autism spectrum disorder;
 - A family member of an adult with autism spectrum disorder; and
 - A member of the legislative assembly.

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TASK FORCE

- The ASD Task Force meets on a quarterly basis to examine the following topics:
 - early intervention services
 - family support services that would enable an individual with ASD to remain in the least restrictive home-based or community setting
 - programs transitioning an individual with ASD from a school-based setting to adult day programs and workforce development programs
 - the cost of providing services
 - the nature and extent of federal resources that can be directed to the provision of services for individuals with ASD

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PLAN

- In 2020, the Task Force reorganized its work groups into two groups: Education/Training and Communication/Public Awareness.
- Both groups have action plans that they are implementing. View the plans at <https://www.nd.gov/dhs/autism/taskforce.html>.

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PLAN

- Education/Training Work Group Plan

Goal	Example
Identify training and education opportunities available that addresses the needs of diverse stakeholders.	Example: State Autism Conference
Review and provide recommendations on the current centralized location(s) for information on ASD.	Example: NDDoH Special Health Services – Autism Resource Booklet

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER PLAN

- Communication/Public Awareness Work Group Plan

Goal	Example
Clear, concise, family-friendly information is available via an updated autism booklet.	Example: NDDoH Special Health Services – Autism Resource Booklet
Create public awareness regarding autism.	Example: Apply for a grant to produce a public awareness video.

STATE AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER TASK FORCE

- DHS recommendations on task force:
 - Update 50-06-32 during next legislative session so that the executive director or designee of DHS is not the chairman.
 - Provide a small amount of funding so the facilitation and administration of the task force can be contracted out to a neutral party.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Krista Fremming
krfremming@nd.gov
701-328-2342