

ND Department of Human Services - Autism Services Unit - 15-17 Executive Budget Items

<u>Capacity</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Federal</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Narrative</u>
Increase in Current Autism Waiver Slots (December 2015 Effective Date) (30 Slots)	880,800	880,800	1,761,600	Effective December 1, 2015, increase autism waiver slots by 30 for a total of 77 slots. The autism waiver began in 2010 with 30 slots. 17 additional slots were approved in the 2013 Legislative Session. The autism waiver amended in the fall of 2013, and now has a total of 47 slots. This amended waiver was approved by the Center for Medicaid and Medicare on June 1, 2014. Currently, based on the applications and transitions from the previous waiver, 53 slots could be utilized. This estimate is based on activity within two months of the waiver being approved. The Autism Coordinator receives 5 to 10 calls a day requesting information about the waiver and voucher program. The operating expenses include the cost of software licenses for additional slots.
Additional Autism Voucher Slots (20 Slots)	500,002		500,002	As of 9/15/2014, the autism voucher program had 19 parents or guardians of individuals with autism between the ages of three years up to 18 years of age apply in the 10 weeks since it was made available. The Department currently has 43 slots and is requesting to expand the voucher by 20 slots to serve a total 63 individuals at a rate of \$1,041.67 per month.
Autism Administrative Staff Officer FTE	114,829	59,249	174,078	Autism Services is currently a division of one person. The unit develops, manages, reports, and monitors the autism waiver, autism voucher, and autism training. In addition, the position is the 'go-to' person in the state on autism. This service unit is separate from the DD Division as these youth do not qualify for traditional DD services. Due to this, methodology to capture data, Medicaid authorizations, and reporting functions have been developed. As these autism services mature, the data will need to be compiled, analyzed, and reported. There is a need for administrative support so the autism coordinator can attend to programmatic and leadership functions.
<b><u>Inflation - 4% / 4%</u></b>				
Autism Provider Inflation	105,468	105,468	210,936	Provides an inflationary increase of 4% to service providers for both of the years of the biennium.
<b><u>Enhancement of Services</u></b>				
Increase Age Limit of Autism Waiver to 9 years (December 2015 Effective Date) (12 Slots)	352,320	352,320	704,640	Effective December 1, 2015, increase age of children served in the autism waiver to cover children birth through age 9. From July 1, 2015 until June 30, 2017 there are approximately 12 children that would age out of the current autism waiver. These children, unless they qualify for the DD Traditional waiver, will not have similar services available to them. If the age is extended by two years, there should be no children that age out of the Autism Services Waiver prior to June 30, 2017. The operating expenses include the cost of software licenses for additional children.