



Autism Waiver

The Autism Waiver is a Medicaid program that provides one-on-one, intensive early intervention treatment to eligible children with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Waiver services take place in the child's home or a parent-approved, community-based location.

How do Autism Waiver Services Help Beneficiaries?

Autism Waiver services enable children with ASD to:



Receive care and support in their homes and communities



Develop skills in areas of cognition, communication, self-care, socialization, and appropriate behavior



Empower parents/guardians to participate in the treatment plan



Receive best practice early intervention services

Parental presence and participation is required for the Autism Waiver and parents must sign a Parental Participation Agreement Form when their child is approved for services. Through this agreement, parents are encouraged to provide their input on their child's treatment plan and enabled to select their provider(s) of choice. Parental input throughout the process allows for waiver beneficiaries to receive the best possible care that is tailored to their needs.

What are the Eligibility Requirements for Receiving Services?

To be eligible to receive services through the Autism Waiver, applicants must:

1. Be aged 18 months to 5 years old (NOTE: : Although the program serves children aged 18 months through the day of their 8th birthday, children must begin the program on or before their 5th birthday to receive the program's three years of treatment).
2. Have been diagnosed with ASD by at least two of the following licensed professionals, either individually or as a team:
 - A. physician
 - B. psychologist
 - C. speech-language pathologist.
3. Meet financial eligibility and level of care criteria.

For more information about eligibility, visit access.arkansas.gov or contact Access Arkansas at 855-372-1084

Who is Responsible for Administering the Autism Waiver?

The Autism Waiver is operated by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDS) or its contracted vendor, Partners for Inclusive Communities, under the administrative authority of the Division of Medical Services (DMS).

For more information about HCBS waivers, visit ar.gov/HCBS



What Services are Provided through the Autism Waiver?

The Autism waiver offers several services to eligible Medicaid beneficiaries.
The specific services a person receives depends on their unique needs.

-  **Consultative Clinical and Therapeutic Services:** Clinical Services Specialists (CSS) assist beneficiary guardians and paid support staff with carrying out the Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) as necessary to improve the beneficiary's independence and inclusion in their family and community.
-  **Individual Assessment / Treatment Development / Monitoring Services:** A consultant hired by the ASD Intensive Intervention community provider will:
 1. Assess each child to determine a comprehensive clinical profile. The profile documents skills deficits in language/communication, cognition, socialization, self-care, and behavior.
 2. Use the clinical profile to develop the Individualized Treatment Plan (ITP) which guides day-to-day interventions.
 3. Use data collected to determine ITP adjustments and clinical progress of the child.
-  **Lead Therapy Intervention Services:** A lead therapist responsible for assuring the beneficiary's Individual Treatment Plan (ITP) is implemented as designed and monitoring the effectiveness of the ITP by reviewing guidance and data collected by Line Therapists and parents / guardians.
-  **Line Therapy Intervention Services:** A line therapist responsible for the on-site provision of intensive intervention services according to the beneficiary's ITP and recording data and progress to the Lead Therapist as needed.
-  **Telemedicine Services:** Clinical and therapeutic services, individual assessments, treatment development, and monitoring services may be delivered to beneficiaries through telemedicine. Autism Waiver service providers are responsible for ensuring the quality-of-service delivery through telehealth is equivalent to in-person, face-to-face service delivery.
-  **Therapeutic Aides and Behavioral Reinforcers:** Includes the provision of necessary therapeutic aides and behavioral reinforcers in the home to improve the child's language, cognition, social, and self-regulatory behavior.