



ACTION ALERT

RE: NJ Children & Youth with Autism

KEY INFORMATION

AUTISM BENEFIT New Jersey is seeking approval for an amendment to the NJ Medicaid State Plan to include Autism Spectrum Disorder related services for (EPSDT) eligible individuals. The State Plan Amendment would provide individuals with autism the following:

- Access to an individually planned and coordinated set of services for individuals up to age 21 – services currently stop at age 13
- A plan of care that includes parent/caregiver/youth choice and maximizes an individual's quality of life
- A multidisciplinary array of services that support the child/youth's functional development and his/her inclusion in their own community
- Services that are trauma and developmentally informed and reflect a holistic and integrated approach
- Services provided in home/out of home settings, clinical settings, community settings
- Services using a variety of developmental and relationship-based approaches including but not limited to: Behavioral Supports | Augmentative Communication | OT | PT | Speech | Eating/Feeding Evaluation and Treatment | Sensory Integration | Assistive Technology | Transitional Services | Respite | Screening and evaluation | Community Inclusion | Transportation | Skill Acquisition

VISION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

- Ensure timely access to appropriate services and build capacity of providers to serve children with ASD
- Expansion of specialty services available statewide
- Family and youth driven approach to services
- Integrated approach to care and an expansion of trauma competent care

ELIGIBILITY

- Under 21 years of age
- Eligible for NJ FamilyCare programs
- Have an ASD diagnosis by a qualified licensed practitioner
- Meet medical necessity criteria

ACTION NEEDED: Submit your comments

Comments or inquiries must be submitted in writing by **February 3, 2019** to:

Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services

Office of Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Attention: Margaret Rose

P.O. Box 712, Mail Code #26

Trenton, New Jersey 08624-0712

Fax: 609-588-7343

E-mail: Margaret.Rose@dhs.state.nj.us

See page 2 for talking points and links to more information.





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TALKING POINTS:

- Providing parent/caregiver/youth choice in the development of the plan of care and in choosing services that meet each family's needs will lead to improved outcomes.
- Autism is a spectrum disorder that requires a spectrum of approaches to care. ABA services are not right for every family; it is important that the plan cover a much wider array of services. Expanding services to include effective developmental and relationship-based approaches will meet the needs of all individuals with ASD.
- Governor Murphy's FY19 budget includes \$17 million to expand and improve access to services for youth with Autism.
- Providing services for individuals aged 14-21 will have a dramatic impact in meeting the needs of youth with autism in NJ.
- The state is to be commended for recognizing the devastating impact of trauma on children and their families and expanding services to be more trauma informed.
- Providing community based services, including transportation, is the best way to ensure that children with ASD improve and generalize skills, build relationships, and become valued members of their community.
- NJ has one of the highest rates of autism in the country. These are urgently needed services that can make a tremendous difference in the lives of our children.

EPSDT = Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). This benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services. [Click here to learn more.](#)

LINKS TO MORE INFORMATION:

- Public notice: <https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/providers/grants/public/index.html>
- DCF Presentation: https://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmahs/home/DCF_Autism_January2019.pdf
- Questions about this SPAN Action Alert: chayer@spanadvocacy.org

Thank you for taking the time to review this Action Alert.
Please take a moment to submit your comments to highlight the key components of the plan that would be helpful to your family and to identify any concerns you have with the plan.