

Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services

ADULT AUTISM PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Commonwealth offers **TWO PROGRAM OPTIONS FOR ADULTS** with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD): The Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP). Both programs are designed for residents of Pennsylvania who are age 21 and older and have a diagnosis of autism. An application can be requested at any age, and individuals of transition age (18-21) are encouraged to request an application as part of their transition planning process by calling toll-free in Pennsylvania: **1-866-539-7689** or online by visiting <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/irt>

For additional information about the programs, please contact the Bureau of Autism Services by visiting www.autisminpa.org, emailing DPW-AutismOffice@pa.gov or calling 866-539-7689.

The Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) is a 1915(c) Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver designed to provide long-term services and supports for community living, tailored to the specific needs of adults with ASD. Priority is given to adults not receiving ongoing state or federally funded services. Additionally, the Adult Autism Waiver is available statewide, and provides participants with a choice of an enrolled provider for each service.

The Adult Autism Waiver does not include physical health services. Participants in the waiver continue to get medical insurance from outside the waiver. For example, an individual may receive medical services through private insurance, Medicaid, Access Plus, or HealthChoices. The waiver is an additional set of services, outside of a person's medical insurance and enrolling in the waiver has no effect on a person's insurance.

The Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) is not a waiver. It is a managed care program that is an integrated model of care reflecting trends being seen in service delivery systems. ACAP is currently available in a limited number of counties, with services provided by one primary provider, and their network of providers, including primary care physicians and dentists. It provides physician, behavioral, and community services through an integrated approach to create a coordinated system of supports.

BAS ADULT AUTISM PROGRAM FEATURES

- ◆ Specifically designed to meet the needs of adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ◆ Administered at the state level directly by BAS
- ◆ Do not use IQ as an eligibility factor
- ◆ Providers required to complete autism-specific training and meet standards before and after enrolling to provide services
- ◆ Clinical and technical assistance available to enrolled providers
- ◆ Service planning and measures of success based on individual goals
- ◆ Services based upon proven approaches to help individuals realize their goals

PROGRAM DIFFERENCES	
ADULT AUTISM WAIVER	ADULT COMMUNITY AUTISM PROGRAM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Priority given to individuals not receiving ongoing state/federally funded services ◆ Available statewide ◆ Physical health services not included as a waiver service; participants retain existing medical insurance ◆ Choice of an enrolled provider for each service ◆ Does allow for residential 24/7 care if a need is determined through assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Available in a limited number of counties; expansion dependent on availability of resources ◆ Becomes the participant's health plan, and integrates physical/behavioral health and community services ◆ One primary provider provides most services, and oversees a network of providers for other services (e.g., primary care physicians, dentists)

Pennsylvania's ADULT AUTISM PROGRAMS: Requesting an Application

How do I request an application?

There are two ways to request an application for Pennsylvania's adult autism programs: by phone, or online. Applications **may not** be requested via email.

To request an application by phone:

Call **1-866-539-7689** (toll free number) and follow the prompts to select the Adult Autism Waiver or the Adult Community Autism Program. Leave a message with the following information:

- Name of person who wishes to apply
- Telephone number
- Address
- County of residence
- If you are calling on the behalf of the person who wishes to apply also leave your name and daytime phone number.

To request an application online:

Visit the Information Referral Tool (IRT): <http://www.dhs.pa.gov/irt>

- The IRT asks a few basic questions and will link individuals who indicate an interest in Autism Services to the COMPASS website.
- Once connected to COMPASS, select "Submit a Referral."
- After answering some additional questions, the referral is submitted electronically to the Bureau of Autism Services.

Who can request an application?

- An application can be requested by phone, or online, by an individual, or for an individual by someone who is assisting that individual.

How will my request for an application be processed?

The Bureau of Autism Services processes application requests by the date of referral. The date of referral means the date that a phone message requesting an application was left in the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) or Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) voicemail box, or the date that a referral was submitted online through the Information Referral Tool (IRT)/COMPASS.

The individual is then added into the Interest List, which is a list of everyone who would like to apply for the Adult Autism Waiver and/or the Adult Community Autism Program, and has called to request an application by leaving a message, or has requested an application online.

When capacity is available, applications are sent out on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date of referral, and eligibility determination is completed through the application process, but not before.

This document highlights changes to the Intake Process for the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP), resulting from the March 12, 2016 implementation of an online option to request an application. For more information about these programs, please visit www.autisminpa.org or call 1-866-539-7689.