

Autism Waiver Updates

Presented by:

Daniel Hammond, Coordinator, Autism
Waiver Program, Montgomery County Public
Schools

Sheri Weissman, Director of Autism Services,
The Coordinating Center

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Maryland's Largest School District

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Presenters

Daniel Hammond

Coordinator, Autism Waiver Program,
Montgomery County Public Schools

-17 years with the Autism Waiver

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Sheri Weissman

Director of Autism Services,
The Coordinating Center

-20 years with the Autism Waiver

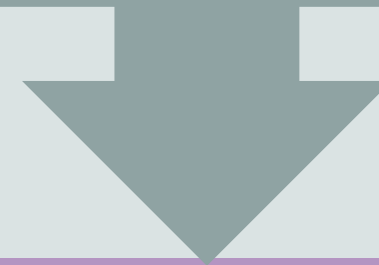


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End the Wait Legislation

SB 636 required the Maryland Department of Health to develop a plan to reduce the waiting list for each of its waiver programs by 50%. The plan was due by January 2023. It also required the Governor to include enough funding in the Fiscal Year 2024 budget to reduce the waiting lists by 50%.



The proposed plan for the Autism Waiver included enrolling 1350 students onto the Autism Waiver in FY 24

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While on the Registry:

Update

- Update the Autism Waiver registry anytime there is a change to your address, phone number, or email address. This can be done by calling **1-866-417-3480**.

Gather

- Gather and make copies of birth certificate, social security card, health insurance card, any financial asset in your child's name, and a recent diagnosis evaluation if autism is NOT a listed diagnosis on the IEP.

Keep

- Keep copies of current IEPs with the above documents as the most current IEP will be needed.

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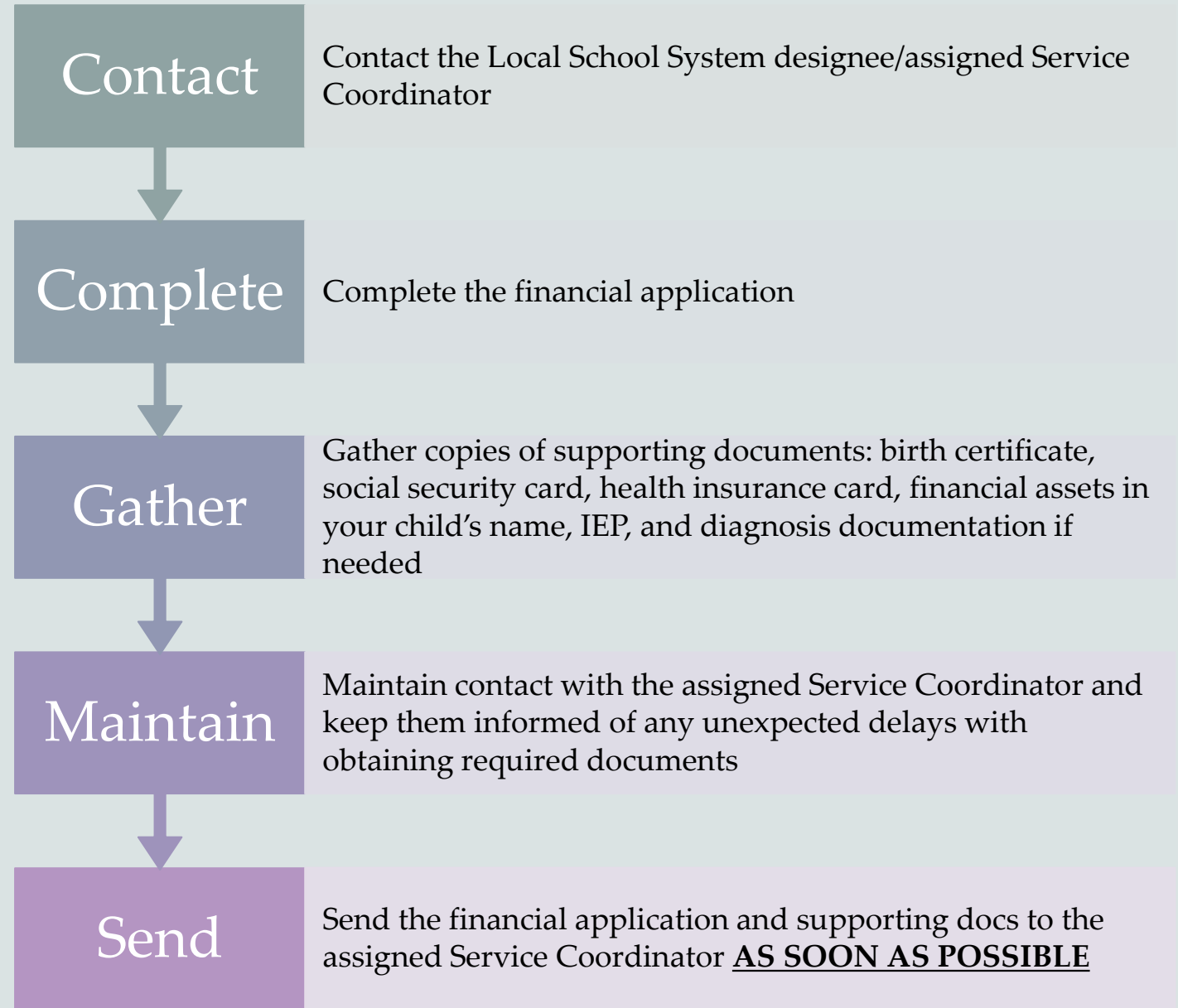
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Application Process



Autism Waiver Eligibility

Financial: Countable assets may not exceed \$2,000 or \$2500 (depending on eligibility category) in child's name

Technical: Live in MD; have a current IFSP or IEP with at least 15 hrs of special ed and/or related service hours; have a current ASD diagnosis; attend an MSDE approved educational program; be between the ages of 1 and 21

Medical: Meet eligibility requirements for an ICF-IID (Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities) institutional level of care; determined by form completed with parent, school team, and Autism Waiver Service Coordinator

Waiver Services

Intensive Individual Support Services (IISS): goal-directed, 1:1 services that work on functional life skills that will help child/young adult become as independent as possible before aging out of the school system. This service uses the home and community environment as a learning experience and as an opportunity to illustrate and model alternative ways of behaving for the child

Respite: 1:1 service that provides supervision so that parent/caregiver can have a break; no goals are targeted and can include approved overnight camps (Camp Greentop and Camp Fairlee Manor).

Therapeutic Integration (TI): a goal-directed, structured program during after-school hours, weekends, and non-school days that provides therapeutic services specially designed for children and adolescents. Close adult supervision, not 1:1, is provided.

Intensive Therapeutic Integration (ITI): a goal-directed, structured program during after-school hours, weekends, and non-school days that provides therapeutic services specially designed for children and adolescents. ITI is for participants who require 1:1 staffing.

Residential Habilitation: Community-based residential placement for those children who cannot be safely managed at home. Services are designed to assist children in acquiring, retaining, and improving the self-help, socialization, and adaptive skills necessary to reside successfully in home and community-based settings.

Waiver services

Environmental Accessibility Adaptations (EAA): funding towards making physical adaptations to the home that are necessary to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of the individual in the home environment and enable the child to function with greater independence. May include items such as fencing, locks, door/window alarms.

Family Consultation (FC): provided directly to the parent/caregiver; addresses areas of concern that may include topics such as speech, behavior, social skills.

Adult Life Planning (ALP): family-centered and focused on educating and supporting the family in accessing adult community services on behalf of the young adult. This service will emphasize the development of a plan for decision making in the autism/developmental disabilities system.

Waiver Expectations

- Monthly contact with the Autism Waiver (AW) Service Coordinator
- At least one home visit with the AW Service Coordinator per year and at least 3 other visits throughout the year (home, school, afterschool program, etc)
- Utilize at least one child specific AW service (IISS, respite, TI/ITI) per month
- Participate in annual AW re-assessments

Waiver Ineligibility

- Participant no longer qualifies on the medical eligibility form
- Participant is homeschooled or attends a private school
- Participant graduates with a diploma
- Participant does not access at least one AW service per month due to reasons other than staffing challenges
- Participant moves out of Maryland
- Participant is placed in a residential program through another funding source

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Questions?

Contact Us

Daniel Hammond

Phone 240-740-3877

E-mail Daniel_W_Hammond@mcpsmd.org

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Sheri Weissman

Phone 240-854-6385

E-mail sweissman@coordinatingcenter.org



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