



Iowa Autism Support Program Information for Parents and Families Revised June 2017

What is the Autism Support Program?

The Autism Support Program (ASP) was created by the Iowa Legislature in 2013 and began operation on April 1, 2014. ASP provides funding for applied behavioral analysis (ABA) services to children under the age of fourteen who are not eligible to receive ABA services through Medicaid or private health insurers and who meet certain diagnostic and financial eligibility criteria. The Iowa Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and Disability Services is currently administering the program.

What benefits are provided by the program?

ASP provides funding for children with autism to access Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and professional staff working under their supervision. Only ABA services are covered through this program. Other types of services and therapies for children with autism may be funded by Medicaid or private insurers.

What is Applied Behavior Analysis?

“Applied Behavior Analysis” is a scientifically validated approach to understanding behavior and how it is affected by the environment, and then using this knowledge to bring about meaningful and positive change in behavior that helps improve how the child functions within the home and community. ABA focuses on principles that explain how learning takes place and on measuring and evaluating a child’s behavior. ABA has been shown to be effective in:

- improving social and communication skills
- reducing challenging behaviors
- teaching new skills
- generalizing behavior and skills across settings and individuals

Who is eligible to participate in the Autism Support Program?

A child is eligible to receive assistance under ASP if:

- the child is under the age of fourteen (14) at the time of application
- the child has a diagnosis on the Autism spectrum dated within twenty-four (24) months of the date of application
- the diagnosis was made by a child psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician, or a clinical psychologist
- the child does not qualify for Medicaid or any other public funding for ABA services
- the child does not have coverage available for ABA services under any private insurance carrier
- the child’s family meets the income guidelines for the program

What are the income guidelines for ASP?

- families with household incomes at or below 500% of the federal poverty level (FPL) may qualify for assistance under this program (as an example, 500% of FPL for a family of four is \$123,000)
- income is determined by applying a modified adjusted gross income calculation to the income reported on the most recently filed federal tax return for the household (the return must have been filed within 15 months of the application date)

Are there other sources of funding for ABA services?

- Before applying for the Autism Support Program you should determine whether your child qualifies for Iowa Medicaid, either in the basis of your family income, or as a child with special needs. You can obtain more information by contacting Iowa Medicaid Member Services at 1-800-338-8366. You may also want to place your child's name on a waiting list for a Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. To learn more about HCBS Waivers, go to:
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs>
- As discussed under the ASP eligibility section, you will also need to determine what, if any benefits are available to you through your private insurance carrier.

How do I apply for the program?

Contact: Connie Fanselow
Mental Health and Disability Services
Iowa Department of Human Services
Hoover State Office Bldg. 5 SE
1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
cfansel@dhs.state.ia.us
515-725-0131

What documentation is needed as a part of the application process?

You will need to provide:

- a fully completed and signed DHS application form
- a copy of the child's certified birth certificate as proof of age
- information from your most recently filed federal tax return (Form 1040 or Form 1040A) to determine your household size and income
- your insurance card or other evidence with child's name as proof of insurance coverage
- proof of non-coverage or denial of coverage for ABA services by all insurance carriers, which could be (1) an insurance policy document clearly specifying non-coverage for ABA services, (2) an explanation of benefits showing ABA is excluded from coverage, (3) a letter of from the insurer stating that ABA is not covered or has been denied, or (4) some other written documentation that states that insurance funding is not available to your child

- a copy of the medial record verifying your child’s diagnosis of autism and made within 24 months of the date of application by a child psychiatrist, a developmental pediatrician, or a clinical psychologist

Will I have to pay for ABA services under this program?

- families of children who are enrolled in this program may have a cost share (co-pay) based on income
- families with household incomes up to 200% of FPL have no cost share
- eligible families with household incomes over 200% of FPL will have a cost share depending on family income
- the family cost share ranges from 0.5% to 15% of the service cost
- if you are unable to pay your cost share, you may apply for an exemption due to financial hardship
- it is the responsibility of the ABA provider to collect the cost share payment from you
- it is your obligation to pay your cost share to your service provider

Who is qualified to provide ASP program supervision and services?

- only Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs), licensed psychiatrists, or licensed psychologists can provide program oversight and supervision
- Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analysts (BCaBAs) and other trained and qualified staff working under the supervision of a BCBA may provide program services

How do I find a provider?

- the program administrator will maintain a list of department-approved autism service providers who are qualified to provide services under the ASP
- once enrolled, you will also be referred to the Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) of the Child Health Specialty Clinics who can assist you with care coordination for your child
- if you currently have a service provider, the ASP will work with that provider to authorize services
- services must be authorized before they can be paid for with ASP funding

What is the Regional Autism Assistance Program?

- the Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) is operated by The University of Iowa’s Child Health Specialty Clinics
- RAP supports Iowa’s children, youth and their families with concerns related to Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)
- RAP teams are committed to ensuring that lowans from birth to age 21 with ASD have access to care coordination services and family-to-family support in their community
- RAP teams are located in regional centers across the state and are available to provide services to families in all 99 counties
- each RAP team consists of Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP), Registered Nurses (RN), and Family Navigators (FN)

- all Family Navigators are family members of a child or youth with special health care needs
- there are no fees for RAP care coordination and family-to-family support services
- for more information, please call toll-free 1-866-219-9119, Ext. 2 or email iowa-RAP@uiowa.edu

Are there limits in the amount or length of services?

- benefits are available to an eligible child for a period of up to 24 months
- the maximum benefit amount is \$36,000 per year (a year is a 12-month period beginning with the first date of service)
- initial eligibility for ASP will last for one year from the approved eligibility start date
- a renewal application with updated income information must be submitted prior to the end of the first year to determine continued financial eligibility to receive services
- your provider will need to submit a revised service plan and receive re-authorization to continue services under that plan every six months

What happens if my child reaches the maximum age limitation while participating in the program?

- your child must be under age 14 at the time of application to the program
- once the child has been approved for services, he or she is eligible to continue receiving services for up to 24 months (or the maximum annual benefit amount) even if the child is older than the allowed application age

What happens after I find out my child is eligible for the program?

- you will receive information about ABA providers or be referred to a provider in your area if you do not already have one
- you will be contacted by or referred to care coordination services through the Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP) of the Child Health Specialty Clinics
- your provider will need to make a service plan for your child and submit the plan to DHS for approval
- once the service plan is approved, the provider will receive authorization to begin ABA services through the ASP

Where can I find more information about ASP?

Contact: Connie Fanselow
 Mental Health and Disability Services
 Iowa Department of Human Services
 Hoover State Office Bldg. 5 SE
 1305 E. Walnut Street
 Des Moines, IA 50319
cfansel@dhs.state.ia.us
 515-725-0131

Iowa Autism Resources

Autism Advocacy groups:

- Autism Society of Iowa - Kris Steinmetz, director
<http://autismia.com/>
- Autism Speaks
http://communities.autismspeaks.org/site/c.ihLPK1PDLof/b.4182725/k.A3A4/Iowa_Resources.htm
- Iowa Autism Council
<https://www.educateiowa.gov/pk-12/special-education/state-requirements-reports/iowa-autism-council>

Family Navigation, Care Coordination Services:

- University of Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program-can provide family navigator to assist with finding services, connecting with other families.
<http://www.chsciowa.org/regional-autism-assistance-program.asp>

Medicaid Program Information:

- HCBS Waiver information with descriptions of each waiver and a comparison chart.
<https://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members/medicaid-a-to-z/hcbs/waivers>
- Medicaid application online portal
<https://dhsservices.iowa.gov/apsspssp/ssp.portal>
- Medicaid application-printable
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/470-5170.pdf>
- Medicaid for Kids with Special Needs program
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/Comm337.pdf>
- For Iowa Medicaid application and eligibility questions (including how to apply for Medicaid, services offered, general health care questions) call DHS Contact Center 1-855-889-7985 (Toll Free) Mon-Fri 7:00 am to 6:00 pm
- For Iowa Medicaid member questions call IME member services call 1-800-338-8366 (Toll Free) or 515-256-4606 (in the Des Moines Area) Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 5:00 pm
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/ime/members>
- IA Health Link managed care organizations
<http://dhs.iowa.gov/iahealthlink>

Iowa Autism Support Program Providers

ABA of Iowa

305 North 4th Street
Bellevue, IA 52031
563-542-1052

Behavior Care Specialists

745 10th Street, Suite C
Rock Valley, IA 51247
605-271-2690

Hills and Dales Child Development Center

1011 Davis Street
Dubuque, IA 52001
563-556-7878

The Homestead

1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite B
Altoona, IA 50009
515-967-4369

The Homestead

2209 Northern Drive
Burlington, IA 52601
515-967-4369

The Homestead

118 E. 18th Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
515-967-4369

The Homestead

1860 NW 118th Street, Suite 100
Clive, IA 50325
515-967-4369

The Homestead

4959 Utica Ridge Road
Davenport, IA 52807
515-967-4369

The Homestead

161 Boyson Square Drive, Suite 100
Hiawatha, IA 52233
515-967-4369

Kathryn Kunkel, BCBA

Bettendorf, IA 52722
773-677-4925

Munroe-Meyer Institute

Center of Autism Spectrum Disorders
& Pediatric Feeding Disorders
985450 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198
402-559-3716 or 402-559-8863

Opportunity Village Children's Autism Center

1200 N. 9th Street W.
P.O. Box 622
Clear Lake, IA 50428
6441-357-6471

The Pier Center for Autism

709 Iowa Street
Sioux City, IA 51105
712-522-2961

Kristin Purington, BCBA

Plattsmouth, NE 68048
402-312-9272

Seasons Center for Behavioral Health

147 South Main
Sioux Center, IA 51250
800-242-5101 Ext. 1308

Tanager Place

2309 C Street SW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
319-365-9165

University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

200 Hawkins Drive
Iowa City, IA 52242
319-353-6952