



Iowa Autism Support Program

The Autism Support Program (ASP) was created by the Iowa Legislature in 2013 and has been operating since April 1, 2014. The program provides funding for applied behavior analysis (ABA) services for children with autism who are not eligible to have ABA services funded through Medicaid or through a private health insurance policy. Participants must also meet certain eligibility criteria.

Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) services funded by ASP are delivered by Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and professional staff working under their supervision. ABA is the only type of service covered through this program. ABA focuses on measuring and evaluating a child's behavior and learning and has been demonstrated to be effective in:

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

To be eligible for the Autism Support Program a child must:

- be under the age of 14 at the time of application
- have a diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder made by a child psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician, or a clinical psychologist and dated within 24 months of the date of application
- not qualify for Medicaid or any other public funding for ABA services
- not have coverage available for ABA services under a private insurance carrier

The family must also meet income guideline for the program:

- families with household incomes of 500% of the federal poverty level (FPL) or less may qualify for assistance under this program (as an example: the maximum qualifying household income for a family of four is \$121,500)
- 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 (filed within 15 months of the application date)
- families with incomes over 200% of FPL will have a cost share based on income ranging from 0.5% to 15% of the cost of services

To apply for assistance through the Autism Support Program or request additional information, please contact:

Connie Fanselow
Iowa Department of Human Services, MHDS
Hoover State Office Bldg. 5 SE - 1305 E. Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50319
Email: cfansel@dhs.state.ia.us or call: 515-725-0131

To apply for ASP you will need to provide:

- a fully completed 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) 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

ASP benefits and limitations:

- ASP benefits are available to an eligible child for a period of up to 24 months
- a child who applies for the program before age 14 and is enrolled can receive the full 24 months of services even though he or she is older than 14
- the maximum benefit amount for each child is \$36,000 per year (a year is the 12-month period beginning with month of 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

ABA service providers:

- DHS maintains a list of department-approved ABA 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 (1-866-219-9119, Ext. 2 or iowa-RAP@uiowa.edu)
- RAP teams are located in regional centers across the state and are available to provide free services to families in all 99 counties
- if you have already selected a service provider, the ASP manager will work with that provider to authorize services

