



Autism Support Program

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Autism Support Program

- In 2013, the Autism Support Program (ASP) was established in Iowa code, chapter 225D.
- ASP funds applied behavior analysis (ABA) services.
- ASP started on April 1, 2014.
- Magellan administers the program.

ASP Eligibility Requirements

- An eligible individual is:
 - a child less than nine years of age
 - diagnosed with autism; provided by a developmental pediatrician, child psychiatrist or clinical psychologist
 - not otherwise eligible for coverage of ABA treatment under Medicaid or third party insurance
 - household income at 400% or below of the federal poverty level

Key ASP Requirements

- Maximum annual benefit of \$36,000
- Maximum of 24 months of ABA treatment
- ABA service must be provided by or under the supervision of a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) or a Health Professional licensed under Iowa Code Chapter 147
- Graduated schedule of cost-sharing for household incomes at or above 200% of federal poverty level
- Care coordination
 - University of Iowa Regional Autism Assistance Program (RAP)
 - Enrolled in an Integrated Health Home

SFY 2014 Utilization of the ASP

- 14 applications
- 7 children received ABA services
- 7 children were denied
 - Medicaid-eligible
 - other insurance coverage
 - over income
 - over age
- No waiting lists for the funding
 - individual providers may have waiting lists for ABA services
- SFY14 costs
 - \$11,284 for services
 - \$ 1,128 for administration

Factors Affecting Program Utilization

- Over 9 years of age at time of application
- Income above 400% of federal poverty level
- Eligible for services through Medicaid or other insurance
- \$36,000 per year for each eligible child may inhibit continuation of services through the child's eligibility year
- Telehealth-delivered services are reimbursable, but no provider has offered this service yet through the ASP

Factors Affecting Program Utilization

- The diagnosis of autism for the ASP must be provided by a child psychiatrist, developmental pediatrician, or clinical psychologist
 - Families may have difficulty obtaining the diagnosis from the required diagnosticians
- Limited number of ABA providers
 - Families may not apply for the program in areas where there are no ABA providers
 - Iowa has approximately 60 BCBA professionals and a limited number are available to provide community-based ABA services to children.
 - Providers are concentrated in the major metropolitan areas
 - Magellan has enrolled 8 BCBA providers, with one provider having locations in four communities

Administrative Update

- Magellan, the ASP administrator, will provide an update on application and eligibility determination processes, provider network capacity, and SFY 2015 usage of the program.