

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. 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**.

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) ◆ At intake, participant cannot require 16 or more hours of awake support