

MESSAGE TO FAMILIES OF YOUNG CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

Autism Alliance of Metrowest:	14 East Central St. Natick, MA 01760	# 508-652-9900: Serving: Metrowest
Autism Resource Center:	71 Sterling Street, West Boylston, MA 01583	#508-835-4278: Serving: Central, MA
Community Resources for People with Autism:	116 Pleasant St. Easthampton, MA 01027	#413-529-2428: Serving: Western, MA
Community Autism Resources:	2315 GAR Highway, Swansea, MA 02777	#508-379-0371: Serving: Southeast
TILL and Boston Families for Autism:	20 Eastbrook Rd. Dedham, MA 02026	#781-302-4600 x 4835: Serving: Greater Boston
The Family Autism Center:	789 Clapboardtree Street, Westwood, MA 02090	#781-762-4001, X. 310 Serving: Norfolk County Area
NSARC: The Autism Support Center:	6 Southside Road, Danvers, MA 01923	#978-777-9135 x, 2301 or 2302: Serving: Northeast

Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms can also be **MAILED (NOT HAND DELIVERED)** to the **AUTISM DIVISION** Mail to:

AUTISM DIVISION
Att. Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms, 500 Harrison Avenue, Boston, MA 02118

- 4. 80 Children will be selected by a geographic lottery from the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms postmarked or date stamped between November 5, 2007 and November 16, 2007, as described above.*
- 5. Those children selected through the lottery will be assessed to determine if the child is financially and clinically eligible to participate in the Waiver Program.*

Once the initial eligibility process period has been completed and the slots have been filled, all remaining Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms received during the open eligibility process period will be retained with their sequence number. We will continue to accept Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms postmarked or date stamped after November 16, 2007. These Forms will be ordered on a first-come first-served basis, behind those received during the original eligibility process period, in the event a slot becomes available.

This Notice and other waiver information is available on the DMR web-site at www.mass.gov/dmr under 'Autism Spectrum Services' and at the DMR funded Autism Support Centers. For additional information about the Autism Waiver Program call toll free at 1-(888)367-4435 or email: DMR.autismdivision@massmail.state.ma.us

It is a priority of the Autism Division of DMR to ensure that the process for requesting eligibility for the Autism Waiver Program is fully accessible to families and children with autism who are from linguistically and culturally diverse backgrounds. The Autism Division of DMR will make the family related Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms available in multiple languages. Copies will be posted on the DMR website and made available at the seven DMR funded Autism Support Centers who are ready to assist all families in this process.

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An Important Message to Massachusetts Families with Children Under Age 9 Diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Autism Division of the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) received \$2 million in state funding to develop a model Program, called a Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver Program. This program is known as the Children's Autism Spectrum Disorders Home and Community Based Services Waiver Program. The funding for this new Waiver Program is limited and the number of applicants that can be served is also limited. The Autism Division expects that up to 80 low-income children will be able to participate at this time. This Waiver Program will provide one-to-one interventions to help children with severe behavior, social and communication problems through a service called **Expanded Habilitation, Education**. This service is expected to occur in the child's home under the supervision of trained clinical staff and will use an intervention method as identified by the family and clinician such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Floor Time or a Communication Model. The waiver will also provide related support services such as community integration activities and respite.

The purpose of the Waiver Program is to help eligible children with autism to remain in their homes and actively participate in their families and in their communities. The waiver will serve up to 80 children under the age of 9, with an autism spectrum disorder who meet the clinical criteria for the Waiver Program, as well as, MassHealth financial eligibility, which is based on family income. The Waiver Program provides up to \$25,000 worth of services and supports, per year, based on the assessed needs of the child. This Waiver Program is for a 3 year period of time and children are reassessed every year to ensure they continue to meet the eligibility criteria for the program. Participation in the waiver program ends, regardless of the start date, when the child reaches his/her 9th birthday.

In order to deliver these services the Autism Division will conduct an open process to find eligible children across Massachusetts.

This message is to notify you about the Eligibility Requirements for the Program:

Your child

1. must have a **confirmed diagnosis** of an Autism Spectrum Disorder, which includes Autistic Disorder, PDD-NOS, Rhetts's Syndrome, Childhood Disintegrative Disorder and Asperger's Syndrome, subject to verification by the Department of Mental Retardation.
2. has not yet reached his/her 9th birthday.
3. is a resident of Massachusetts.
4. must be found by the MassHealth agency to be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage, based on Family income.
5. must meet the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) as assessed by the Department of Mental Retardation.
6. must be able to be safely served in the community.

How to Participate in the Eligibility Process:

1. *Get a copy of the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form*

(This Form will be used to select participants for assessment of eligibility for the program)

- a. Please contact your local Autism Support Center (listed below) to request a Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form. The Autism Support Centers are available to help you complete the necessary paperwork to submit a Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form.
- b. Forms will also be posted on the DMR website. www.mass.gov/dmr under 'Autism Spectrum Services'

2. *Complete the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form*

PLEASE NOTE: You will need your child's date of birth and social security number in order to complete this Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form

3. *Submit the Waiver Program Eligibility Request Form Between November 5, 2007 and November 16, 2007*

- **ALL FORMS MUST HAVE A POSTMARK OR DATE STAMP BETWEEN NOVEMBER 5, 2007 AND NOVEMBER 16, 2007. NO WAIVER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY REQUEST FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR THIS INITIAL ELIGIBILITY PROCESS WITH DATES OUTSIDE OF THIS PERIOD**
- **REMEMBER TO FILL OUT THE FORM COMPLETELY & CLEARLY—PLEASE PRINT**
- **SIGN THE FORM IN PEN**
- **ONLY ONE APPLICATION PER CHILD WILL BE ACCEPTED, MULTIPLE FORMS WILL BE DISCARDED.**

Waiver Program Eligibility Request Forms can be **Hand Delivered or Mailed to your local Autism Support Center:**