

An Important Message from Autism Speaks

Racism and discrimination have no place in our society.

Deeply ingrained in the Autism Speaks mission is a commitment to creating a more equitable world for those we serve. The autism community is diverse and broad, including all races, ethnicities, abilities, socioeconomic groups, belief systems and identities.

We stand with our volunteers, our colleagues, our partners and every member of our community in speaking out against racism and speaking up for a world that is more inclusive and empathetic – where all people are respected, protected and valued.



autism speaks[®]

**Supporting the Washington State Autism Community
During COVID-19 Through Advocacy**

June 5, 2020



our mission

Autism Speaks is dedicated to promoting solutions, across the spectrum and throughout the life span, for the needs of individuals with autism and their families. We do this through advocacy and support; increasing understanding and acceptance of people with autism; and advancing research into causes and better interventions for autism spectrum disorder and related conditions.



Mission Objectives

Through partnerships and collaboration,
we are committed to:

- Increasing global understanding & acceptance of people with autism
- Being a catalyst for life-enhancing research breakthroughs
- Increasing early childhood screening & timely interventions
- Improving the transition to adulthood
- Ensuring access to reliable information & services throughout the life span



Autism Speaks does not provide medical or legal advice or services. Rather, Autism Speaks provides general information about autism as a service to the community. The information provided in this email is not a recommendation, referral or endorsement of any resource, therapeutic method, or service provider and does not replace the advice of medical, legal or educational professionals. Autism Speaks has not validated and is not responsible for any information or services provided by third parties. You are urged to use independent judgment and request references when considering any resource associated with the provision of services related to autism.

Challenges the Autism Community is Facing

- Abrupt discontinuation of educational services
- Closure of day programming
- Closure of clinics
- Shift to telehealth
- Mental health supports
- Lack of connection to community opportunities and supports
- Severe disruption of community employment
- Discontinuation of respite relief for families
- Disruption of much-needed routines
- Loss of income for families
- Challenging behaviors
- Access to healthcare with appropriate supports



Contact our Autism Response Team

The Autism Response Team (ART) is an information line for the autism community. Our team members are specially trained to provide personalized information and resources to people with autism and their families.

How to contact ART

Call our toll-free number or send us an email – we're available between 9am and 5pm in all time zones. Live chat is also available between 9am and 5pm ET.

Your call will be routed to the team member for your region. We also have a dedicated Spanish language toll-free number.

1-888-AUTISM2 (1-888-288-4762)

En Español: 1-888-772-9050

help@autismspeaks.org



Agenda

Welcome
Lori Kiehle

Manager Field
Development
Seattle

Federal Advocacy
Update

David Sitcovsky
Senior Director
Policy and Federal
Government
Affairs

State Advocacy
Update

Judith Ursitti
Director State
Government
Affairs

Community
Outreach

Marianne Sullivan
Director
Community
Outreach



Federal Advocacy Response

Federal COVID Legislation – What’s Passed

MARCH 6: COVID 1

Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations

Provides \$8.3 billion in emergency funding for federal agencies to respond to the coronavirus outbreak

MARCH 18: COVID 2

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

- Provides emergency paid sick and family leave
 - DOL has provided Q&A regarding these provisions of the law
- Tax credits
- Free COVID-19 testing (where available)
- Expands food assistance and unemployment benefits
- Increases Medicaid funding

MARCH 27: COVID 3

Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act

Provides \$2 trillion in funding for provisions, including:

- Economic impact payments to most Americans
- Increased unemployment benefits
- Hundreds of billions of dollars to address the public health response
- Assistance for small businesses and other employers to retain employees and keep their businesses operating
- Billions of dollars for schools
- Extends the Money Follows the Person program through November

Federal COVID Legislation – What’s Passed

APRIL 24: COVID 3.5

Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act

Interim bill to replenish small business assistance program and address other issues:

- Limited scope to address Paycheck Protection Program and funding for hospitals and testing.

Our advocacy priorities during the COVID crisis

- Additional funding for home and community-based services (HCBS)
- Additional funding to meet the educational needs of students with autism
- Protecting the [rights of students under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act \(IDEA\)](#) and other laws
- Expanded access to telehealth services for health care needs
- Eligibility for \$500 economic impact payments for dependents over age 17
- According caregivers of adults with disabilities the [same emergency paid sick and family medical leave](#) policies accorded caregivers of children
- [Preventing discrimination](#) in treatment decisions and care allocation based on disability

Congressmen Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Mike Doyle (D-PA), co-chairs of the Congressional Autism Caucus, have sent letters to congressional leadership advocating for many of these priorities.

What's next?

- COVID 4 – negotiations ongoing
- On May 15th, the House of Representatives passed The Heroes Act – a \$3 trillion relief package.
- Priorities that are included in The Heroes Act:
 - Substantial increase in funding for HCBS
 - \$100 billion for education (in addition to \$1 trillion in general assistance for state and local governments)
 - Dependents over 17 retroactively eligible for economic impact payments. Eligible for additional \$1,200 payments in Heroes Act.
 - Clarifies eligibility for emergency paid sick and family leave for caregivers of adults with disabilities
 - \$10 million for DD Act activities
- The Senate has not indicated that it will take up this bill. Path from here is unclear...



State Advocacy Response



HEALTHCARE

HOME AND
COMMUNITY
BASED SERVICES

SPECIAL
EDUCATION/EARLY
INTERVENTION

HEALTHCARE

Washington State was approved for an 1135 emergency waiver on [March 19, 2020](#) and again on [May 6, 2020](#) by CMS, the federal Medicaid agency. This allows for greater flexibility related to:

- Home and Community Based Service (HCBS) Settings Requirements for Specified Settings
- Conflict of Interest Requirements under HCBS State Plan and Waiver Authorities
- Requirement to Obtain Beneficiary and Provider Signatures of HCBS Person-Centered Service Plan
- Provider Participation
- Waiver of Service Prior Authorization (PA) Requirements
- Waiver for Pre-Admission Screening and Annual Resident Review (PASRR) Level I Level II Assessments for 30-Days
- Waiver to allow evacuating facilities to provide services in alternative settings
- State Fair Hearing Requests and Appeal Timelines

Telehealth Services

- States have broad flexibility to cover telehealth through Medicaid including the methods of communication (such as telephonic, video technology commonly available on smart phones and other devices) to use.
- Telehealth is important not just for people who are unable to go to the doctor, but also for when it is not advisable to go in person. No federal approval is needed for state Medicaid programs to reimburse providers for telehealth services in the same manner or at the same rate that states pay for face-to-face services.
- Info on the Washington State Health Care Authority's Medicaid Policy for telehealth can be found [here](#).

Telehealth Services

GOVERNOR INSLEE'S MARCH 25TH [EXECUTIVE ORDER](#) ENCOURAGES HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE TELEMEDICINE SERVICES BY PROVIDING FOR PAYMENT PARITY BETWEEN TELEMEDICINE AND IN-PERSON MEDICAL SERVICES

Payors are Prohibited from:

- Reimbursing in-network providers for telemedicine claims for medically necessary covered services at a rate lower than the contracted rate that would be paid if the services had been delivered through traditional (in-person) methods.
- Denying a telemedicine claim from an in-network provider for a medically necessary covered service due to an existing provider contract term with that provider that denies reimbursement for services provided through telemedicine.
- Establishing requirements for the payment of telemedicine services that are inconsistent with the emergency orders, rules or technical advisories to carriers issued by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Telehealth Services

Services the autism community could potentially access via telehealth include but are not limited to:

- Behavioral health treatments, including applied behavior analysis
- Therapeutic services, including speech therapy, occupational therapy and physical therapy
- Psychological and psychiatric care



HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES: The following are temporary changes in response to the COVID19 pandemic. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid approved Washington State’s request to be flexible with provider requirements and service delivery for clients. The flexibilities allow better supports and services for DDA clients. (Additional info [here](#).)

Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

Transforming Lives

Flexibilities during the COVID-19 pandemic

The following are temporary changes in response to the COVID19 pandemic.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid approved Washington state's request to be flexible with provider requirements and service delivery for clients. The flexibilities allow better supports and services for DDA clients.

Flexibilities for providers and client services

Long-term care workers will receive more time to complete basic training, continuing education courses, and home care aide certification. Also, all providers will receive more time to get an FBI fingerprint background check.

New Flexibility for Clients	For Example	How can this work for you?
Person-centered service plans and assessments will receive more time to be completed.	Anaya needs more time to complete her assessment because her legal representative is sick and cannot participate in an assessment right now. Her case manager will reschedule her assessment for when everyone is healthy and able to participate.	DDA may postpone an assessment if you are unable to participate because of COVID-19.
Service authorizations to remain open longer so that case managers can complete the assessment.	Anaya's annual assessment will be late because her legal representative is sick, but she has services that expire this month when her assessment is due. Her case manager will leave her previous services in place until a new assessment can be completed.	DDA may continue to authorize services until a new assessment can be completed.
Personal care tasks delivered by phone or video.	Luke has a compromised immune system and would like to keep physical distance from other people. He needs verbal cues to remind him to take his medications. Luke's provider calls him every morning to take his medications.	DDA can authorize personal care services to be provided over the phone or through an audio/visual medium when you and your provider agree that the support you rely on can be done remotely.
With prior approval, other types of providers may offer remote services.	Kenny would like to avoid being around other people when possible to prevent COVID exposure. Kenny's community guide provider used to help him learn how to read the bus schedule on the bus stop signs. Now, Kenny's provider uses Zoom so he can practice reading the bus schedule remotely.	DDA can authorize many services to be provided over the phone or through an audio/visual medium when you and your provider agree that the support you rely on can be done remotely.

(continued on back)

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Transforming Lives

(continued from front)

New Flexibility for Clients	For Example	How can this work for you?
Waiver transportation may be provided to take a client to a non-waiver service.	Tanya's mom believes she was exposed to COVID-19 during a grocery shopping trip so calls her mom and asks if Tanya can stay with her for 14 days while mom monitors her health. Tanya's provider is paid waiver transportation to drive Tanya to her grandmother's house.	DDA can authorize waiver transportation (mileage reimbursement) if transportation is needed to a non-waiver service.
Basic Plus, Core and Children's Intensive In-home Behavioral Support waivers can have more respite hours if the client or primary caregiver is impacted by COVID-19.	Joey's primary caregiver is providing more care than usual and is more stressed balancing work from home and caregiving because of the stay home, stay healthy order. DDA approved some extra hours through the COVID-19 emergency to give the primary caregiver a break.	When COVID-19 has impacted your primary caregiver's ability to care for you, you may request some extra respite hours for your provider so your caregiver can get an extra break.
Out-of-state for more than 30 days or more respite hours is determined on a case-by-case basis and with prior approval.	Maggie's dad is her primary caregiver. Her grandpa, who lives in Kansas, doesn't have the help he used to because of COVID-19 so Maggie and her dad need to go stay with grandpa for a couple of months. DDA approved respite out of state for 60 days so Maggie's respite provider can go with them.	If you need to go out of state because of COVID-19 and need a respite provider with you, DDA may approve more than 30 respite days for you.
Waiver aggregate funding limits can be extended.	Daisy is on the IFS waiver and she is having a hard time getting used to her new schedule and being home so much. She needs her behavior support provider to check in with her a little bit more to help her cope. DDA approved some extra funding so she could meet with her behavior support provider more during the stay at home, stay healthy order.	You may be approved additional funding if your current budget cannot support you through the COVID-19 crisis.

Community First Choice Information

Clients will also receive a special COVID-19 edition of the Wellness Education.

The requirement for out-of-state providers to be licensed in Washington will temporarily be waived if they are licensed by another state Medicaid agency or Medicare.

DDA Home and Community Based Service Waivers Information

Specialized medical equipment may cover items related to health and safety related to COVID-19, such as hand sanitizer for the DDA client.

Community guide or community engagement services and staff/family consultation can be provided to more than one client at a time with a rate reduction.

Providers trained in emergency preparedness can provide family consultation support.

Washington State Department of Social & Health Services
Transforming Lives

Special Education/Early Intervention



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

If a district is not providing educational services to students during the closure, then there is not a requirement to provide special education services during the same time period. Districts will want to consider special education needs on a case-by-case basis during the closure to address health and safety needs of students with disabilities.

Find resources for Washington State schools and districts to guide decisions and provision of FAPE for students receiving special education during the COVID school closures [here](#).

Special Education/Early Intervention

The state of Washington State is receiving funds from the COVID-3 (CARES) stimulus package through the Education Stabilization Fund.

K-12	\$ 213.6 million
Post-secondary	\$ 202.5 million
Governor's Discretionary	\$ 59.5 million

It is critical that advocacy occur so that Washington State students with autism receive appropriate supports and services, including but not limited to:

- **Hardware, software, communication devices, and other assistive technology**
- **Appropriate transition from early intervention to special education**
- **Services not received during the time of school closures and remote learning, including in-person services provided as soon as is safe and feasible (i.e. this summer)**
- **Appropriate transition out of special education to adulthood**

Connect with us!

Sign up for advocacy alerts and emails and find your elected officials at www.autismspeaks.org/advocacy

Follow our advocacy profiles

 | [Autism Speaks Advocacy](#)

 | [@AutismVotes](#)

 | [@AutismVotes](#)





Community Outreach

COVID-19 Information and Resources

We



The Autism Response Team responds emails and phone calls



Autism Cares Grants specifically to help families with financial needs



COVID-19 pages

- We have general resources, resources for families, healthcare providers, educators, and people with autism.
- Resources are updated weekly and posted on social channels as well as our website



www.autismspeaks.org/covid-19-information-and-resources

48 Autism Speaks tool kits for children, adults, families & healthcare professionals



Resource GUIDE

Resource Guide

Use the filters below to find providers near you.

Looking for expert advice and even more information? Try our Directory. [Get Now](#)

Show 24 items

Apply Filters

Advocacy

- Attorney, Legal & Financial (6)
- Educators (282)
- Attorneys (123)
- Financial Planners (88)
- Legal & Financial (121)
- Parent Training (138)

Autism Friendly Services

- After school programs (130)
- After school Programs (152)
- Art & Music Programs (172)
- Camps (278)
- Equine Programs (88)
- Hospitals (41)
- Swim & Water Safety (16)

Employment & Post-Secondary Education

- Employment Supports (180)
- Post-Secondary Education (78)
- Transition Programs (171)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (138)

Evaluation & Diagnosis

- Autism Evaluations (80)
- Pediatric/Adult Developmental (25)
- Psychologists (47)
- Psychologists & Counselors (58)
- Specialized Autism Centers (84)

Health & Medical

- Dentists (44)
- Speech-Language (17)
- Inpatient Treatment Care Centers (8)

Housing & Community Living

Community Events

Events

Show the filters

6 Events within miles of **Carlsbad, CA** [Change Location](#)

Apply Filters

Clear Filters



AUTISM FRIENDLY EVENT
6.14.2020
ASD Mornings at The Nat



AUTISM FRIENDLY EVENT
6.27.2020
Sensory Friendly Movie at AMC



AUTISM FRIENDLY EVENT
7.11.2020
Sensory Friendly Movie at AMC



AUTISM FRIENDLY EVENT
7.26.2020
Sensory Friendly Movie at AMC



WALK
10.10.2020
San Diego Walk



LOCAL EVENT
11.14.2020
North County Walk


Did You Know?

We have an Autism Response Team



If you need resources or have questions about autism, call 888-288-4762 or email familyservices@autismspeaks.org



 **AUTISM SPEAKS®**


**AUTISM
SPEAKS®**



Thank You