

Q: Who will be eligible for the Medicaid Autism Waiver?

A: Children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) between the ages of two through five years will be eligible for the Waiver. The ASD diagnosis must be from a clinician who is authorized under the scope of their licensure. Documentation from the provider verifying the diagnosis will be required prior to entrance into the program.

Q: How and when do I enroll my child in the Waiver?

A: Children will be enrolled in the Waiver from the pool of eligible candidates who apply during an open enrollment period. Open enrollment is estimated to begin sometime between October 1 and November 15, 2012, but the actual date depends on CMS approval of the State's waiver application. Applications will be accepted online as well as by mail and fax.

Q: How long will the open enrollment period be, and how will I know about it?

A: Open enrollment will be a 14 day period. In the weeks leading up to these dates, the Department of Health will post the information on the Medicaid Autism Waiver website: <http://health.utah.gov/autismwaiver>. In addition, the Department will notify the media, post information on various parent and autism advocacy list-serves and websites, post on a variety of state agency websites, and notify families of children currently participating in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Early Intervention, etc.

Q: How will the 200 waiver openings be divided state-wide?

A: Using the information from the 2010 census, the waiver openings will be assigned to each health district based on population. (ex. If the Salt Lake Health Region held 37% of the population during the census, it will also receive 37% of the waiver openings). This assures access to children in rural areas.

Q: Will applications received during open enrollment be processed on a "first-come, first-served" basis?

A: No. If the number of applicants is 200 or less, then all eligible applicants will be enrolled in the Waiver. If the number of applicants exceeds 200, enrollees will be selected from a randomized list created for all applicants who applied at any time during the open enrollment process. The applicants will be chosen from the regional lists beginning with number one until the allowed number of openings per region are filled. As children leave the program due to "aging-out" or other general attrition, the Department will maintain an additional randomized list, also by region, to fill vacancies. Additional open enrollment periods may also be used.

Q: Is there an age requirement to apply?

A: There is both an age requirement for how young and how old a child may be to receive coverage. The Medicaid Autism Waiver is for children ages 2 through 5. On the final day of the open enrollment period, a child must have had their second birthday. For older children, in order to ensure a child can receive at least 6 months of service, the age limit when applying is 5 years, 6 months. This is both to ensure a child can receive a minimum amount of support as well as allow the Department to gather data on progress made on the program.