

DDS Autism Waiver Service Program

The Autism Waiver Program (AWP) serves eligible children with an autism spectrum diagnosis from ages 0-8 through the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

Potential AWP Services (this is an individualized planning process- meaning that services vary depending on the child's needs and services available):

- Expanded habilitation
- Family training
- Home and vehicle modifications
- Education
- In-home services and supports such as Applied Behavioral Analysis and Floor Time

Program Duration:

The services provided by the waiver last for 3 years. Once the 3 years is over, the child may receive help with transitioning out of the Autism Waiver Program and accessing ongoing Supplemental Services.

Eligibility, as described by the state of Massachusetts <https://www.mass.gov/doc/the-autism-waiver-program/download>:

- An official diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder by the Department of Developmental Services.
- Is under the age of 9 years old.
- A Massachusetts resident.
- Meets the level of care required for services in an Intermediate Care Facility for persons with Intellectual disability as assessed by DDS.
- The family chooses to have the child receive services in the home and community.
- The child must be able to be served safely within the community.
- The child must have a legally responsible representative able to direct the services and supports of the Waiver.
- Must be eligible for MassHealth Standard coverage based on family income. If the family has not yet applied for MassHealth, this must be done at the time of filing for the AWP.

Application:

The 2022 application period has not been announced yet, but below is the link to the application process in 2021. Seeing this past year's process can help to know what to expect and prepare accordingly:

- [https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-autism-waiver-service-program-awp-open-interest-period-2021#autism-waiver-program-open-request-application-2021-](https://www.mass.gov/lists/dds-autism-waiver-service-program-awp-open-interest-period-2021#autism-waiver-program-open-request-application-2021)
- <https://www.mass.gov/doc/awp-application-english-1/download>