



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

Bureau of Autism Services *Newsletter*

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The Bureau of Autism Services Announces the 2011 Family & Individual Mini-Grants

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The Bureau of Autism Services will once again make mini-grants available to support children and adults with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and families that include an individual with ASD. A focus of this project is to reach out and serve individuals and families that are not able to access existing support systems for various reasons (for example: eligibility criteria, age, waiting lists).

How do I obtain an application for the mini-grant?

Applications for the 2011 Family & Individual Mini-Grant will be available on the Bureau of Autism Services website (www.autisminpa.org) by the close of business on **February 18, 2011**. If you do not have internet access or printing capabilities, requests for paper applications to be mailed to you can be made after February 18, 2011 by calling 1-866-539-7689. The full application packet will provide complete details regarding the grant, a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section, directions for completing the application, and the application itself.

What if I have questions about completing the application or the application process?

This year we have developed a recorded webcast that shares information about the mini-grant application process, including a sample completed application and FAQs. This webcast will be posted by the close of business on **February 18, 2011** to: <http://bastraining.acrobat.com/p53796987/>.

If you have questions that are not answered on the webcast or in the FAQ included with the application packet, you may email DPW-AutismOffice@state.pa.us or call toll-free, 1-866-539-7689.

Who is eligible to apply for the mini-grant?

Applicants meeting eligibility requirements may apply for up to \$500 in grant funds. Priority will be given to applicants who have **not** previously received a Bureau of Autism Services Mini-Grant. **Funding for these mini-grants is limited and is on a first-come, first-served basis. Not everyone who applies for this grant will be funded.**

Please refer to the Mini-Grant Application & Information Packet for information about eligible activities. We are pleased to offer additional options for adults.

Applications Available:
February 18, 2011

Application Deadline:
April 15, 2011

Adult Autism Waiver Renewal: Community Input

The Adult Autism Waiver is a Medicaid program that provides home and community-based services specifically designed to help adults with ASD participate in their communities in the way they want to.

“Waiver” is a federal term that refers to regulations that allow states to use Medicaid funds to pay for support and services in participants’ homes and communities. Under a waiver, regular rules are “waived” or “not applied”, and people can receive services in their home and community at the same or lower cost than if they were in an institution.

Each waiver is authorized for a specific amount of time, and must be renewed periodically. The Adult Autism Waiver must be renewed by June 30, 2011. Pending approval, the renewed Adult Autism Waiver will go into effect on July 1, 2011.

The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) has taken the mandatory renewal as an opportunity to review and improve the waiver. There are changes proposed for the waiver that fit into three categories:

1. Quality Management Changes
2. Increased Flexibility for Participants and Providers
3. Changes to Clarify the Intent of the Waiver

Prior to submitting the renewal application to CMS, the Bureau of Autism Services is providing a period of one month for public review of the revised document with an option to offer feedback or suggestions. BAS has released the draft waiver renewal for public input and welcomes your feedback. The comment period began February 1, 2011 and will end March 4, 2011.

Please note that the application referred to is the Bureau of Autism Services' application to the Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). It is NOT the application that individuals or providers complete to enroll in the waiver program.

In order to comment, please visit the BAS Virtual Training & Resource Center. The instructions follow below.

The forum for submitting comments is available in the *BAS Virtual Training & Resource Center (VTC)*: <http://bastraining.tiu11.org>

To review the Adult Autism Waiver Renewal Application and access the public comment section, please:

1. Visit the BAS Virtual Training Center: <http://bastraining.tiu11.org>
2. Set up a free account if you do not already have one. If you have an account but do not remember your log-in information you will be able to request that it be emailed on the homepage.
3. Once you have logged in, select *Adult Autism Waiver Renewal: Public Comment*



SAVE THE DATE!

Bureau of Autism Services
Presents

4th Annual Pennsylvania Autism Training Conference (PATC)
Tuesday – Thursday
May 3-5, 2011



Eden Resort Inn & Suites
222 Eden Road, Lancaster, PA 17601

ABOUT THE CONFERENCE: This conference will focus on addressing **real-life situations faced by those who work directly with individuals with autism, from the youngest children to older adults.** The presenters will share strategies that exemplify best and most current practices developed by nationally recognized autism experts. Participants should be prepared to consider challenges for those individuals with autism they currently support. Each session will offer practical strategies and solutions that can improve the quality of life for people with an ASD and their families.

WHO SHOULD GO: Adult Autism Waiver providers, ACAP provider network, adult service providers, direct service staff professionals, BHRS professional staff, diagnosticians, educators, vocational counselors, employment providers, clinicians, nurses, pediatricians, MH clinicians, family members/caregivers, individuals with ASD

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Tues. 5/3 **Adult Autism Waiver Provider Day: Not open to the general public**
Wed. 5/4 **Diane Bannerman Juracek, Ph.D., BCBAPerson-Centered Programming**
Thurs. 5/5 **Paul Wehman, Ph.D.Employment Transition**

Plus Breakout Session Topics: Co-occurring conditions; effective teaming; employment transition; self-advocacy panel; Lifesharing/residential option; Positive Behavior Support across the lifespan; professional responsiveness; sexuality; self-determination; best practice interventions and case studies; ASERT Needs Assessment findings

CONTINUING EDUCATION

This conference is approved for continuing education for Board Certified Behavior Analysts, PA Educators, Social Workers, National Board Certified Counselors, and Psychologists. General Continuing Education hours are offered for nurses and other medical professionals.

Information about registration, costs, and sessions will be posted to <http://bastraining.tiu11.org> as it becomes available.
Reserve your Eden hotel room now! Mention the conference for a special rate.

Questions? Contact 1-866-539-7689 or ra-bastrainings@state.pa.us

The Bureau of Autism Services (BAS), PA Department of Public Welfare, is pleased to offer the following training opportunities:

Functional Behavioral Assessment & Treatment Plan Development

Presented by WPIC ASERT, Western Region; Curriculum developed by BAS Clinical Team

Center County Training

Day 1: Monday, February 28, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm
Day 2: Monday, March 28, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Days Inn Penn State
240 South Pugh Street
State College, PA 16801

Registration deadline: 2/23/11

Bedford County Training

Day 1: Monday, March 14, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm
Day 2: Monday, April 11, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Best Western - Bedford
4517 Business 220 Exit 146 PA Tpk
Bedford, PA 15522-7763
(814) 623-9006

Registration deadline: 3/10/11

Washington County Training

Day 1: Thursday, March 17, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm
Day 2: Tuesday, April 19, 2011 8:30am-4:30pm

Location: Cambria Suites
451 Racetrack Road
Washington, PA 15301

Registration deadline: 3/10/11

To register or for more information:

www.asert.pitt.edu and click on "Educational Materials."

These are two-day trainings. Attendance at both dates is required for registrants.

Note for BAS providers: Conducting an FBA is required for providers within the Adult Autism Waiver and the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP).

There is no fee for this training. Travel, luncheon, and hotel accommodations will not be provided.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

CEUs are available at a cost of \$30 for this two-day training. Participants are required to attend **both full days** in order to receive a certificate of completion and/or to apply for continuing education credits.

The Bureau of Autism Services Announces The ASERT Community Inclusion Manual

Now available as a recorded presentation:
<http://bastraining.acrobat.com/p66524173/>

Topic: Community Inclusion for Adults with Autism: Guidance for Providers in PA

Presented by: Lehigh University, Eastern ASERT

Eastern Region ASERT at Lehigh University is pleased to announce the release of **"Community Inclusion for Adults with Autism: Guidance for Providers in Pennsylvania."**

The manual is a result of the collaborative efforts of Devereux Pennsylvania and Eastern Region ASERT at Lehigh University. This manual, designed for use by providers of services to adults with ASD, provides a comprehensive synthesis of numerous best practices based on the innovative practices developed through Devereux's CAAPP and Lehigh University. The webcast addresses the philosophy that guided development of the manual and provides an overview of the practices described within. Included are topics such as

- employment services
- community inclusion services
- instructional strategies and supports
- operational issues

How can I access the manual?

The FREE manual is available for viewing and downloading through the *Bureau of Autism Services Virtual Training & Resource Center (VTC)*:

- Visit <http://bastraining.tiu11.org> and set up a free account
- Select *Community & Professional Autism Trainings*
- Select *Community Inclusion for Adults with Autism*