

FAQ Sheet – Bureau of Autism Services Adult Autism Programs Application Instructions



FAQ- 011 ASERT is funded by the Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Human Services

Pennsylvania's leading source of autism-related resources and information.

877-231-4244

The Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Human Services, administers two programs in Pennsylvania that are specifically designed for adults 21 and older with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Learn more about these programs and the application process at www.PAautism.org/BASprogramvideos.

How do I request an application?

If you think you may be eligible for the BAS adult programs, or know someone who might be, you are strongly encouraged to request an application, and secure a place on the Interest List by calling the toll-free number: 1-866-539-7689. Applications may not be requested by email and are not available on-line.

BAS continually accepts requests for applications for its two Adult Autism Programs: the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and the Adult Autism Community Program (ACAP). When a call for an application is received, the individual is added to the Interest List. You can request an application for both programs; each program maintains its own Interest List.



When will I receive an application?

Requests for applications for AAW or ACAP are processed in the order they are received. This is based on the date and time individuals first call the toll-free number to request an application for that program. Applications for either program are sent when the capacity to support additional participants is available. Because services are dependent upon resources, it is not possible to determine how long it will take from the time an individual is placed on the Interest List to the time that the person will receive an Application Packet.

Do I have to be 21 to reserve a space on the interest list?

An individual is not eligible for the programs until the age of 21. However, you can call to request an application at any age, and transition planning typically occurs between the ages of 18-21. The Interest List is growing each day. It is important to remember that individuals spend about 75% of their lives as adults, and Pennsylvania's adult autism programs are lifelong programs. The age of 21 is the minimum age for eligibility, but there is no upper age limit. Even if you need to wait beyond the age of 21, being on the Interest List is still beneficial.

What are the benefits of being on the interest list?

- With the growing number of adults with autism who may be seeking services, it is important for individuals, families and government organizations to plan ahead (36,000 adults in PA by 2020).
- Securing a place on the Interest List is the only way to access Pennsylvania's adult autism programs, and maximize the potential that you or your family member will receive the services needed over the lifespan.
- As capacity to support additional individuals in the Adult Autism Programs becomes available, you will already be on the list to receive an application.
- **You will be among the first to learn about new resources and additional opportunities for individuals with autism that become available.**

FAQ Sheet: Key Transition Resources



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This list is an overview of some of the transition resources that ASERT references most frequently.

ASERT-PAautism.org

www.PAautism.org, 877-231-4244, info@paautism.org, ASERTespanol@paautism.org Pennsylvania's leading source of autism-related resources and information.

PA Secondary Transition Guide

www.secondarytransition.org The purpose of this website from the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network, is to provide youth, young adults, parents, and professionals with secondary transition resources to facilitate a young person's progress toward the attainment of post-secondary goals related to education, employment, and community living.

PYLN Secondary Transition Toolkit

<http://pyln.org/Files/PYLN2ndTransitionToolkit.pdf> A transition guide from the Pennsylvania Youth Leadership Network.

Autism Transition Handbook

http://www.autismhandbook.org/index.php/Main_Page The goal of this wiki is to assist individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families by providing access to the most current and comprehensive information on the transition to adulthood. It is maintained by the Devereux Foundation.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

http://www.dli.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/vocational_rehabilitation/10356 The Pennsylvania Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, or OVR, provides vocational rehabilitation services to help persons with disabilities prepare for, obtain, or maintain employment. OVR provides services to eligible individuals with disabilities, both directly and through a network of approved vendors. Services are provided on an individualized basis.

PA CareerZone

<http://www.pacareerzone.org/PACareerZone> A website created by the Pennsylvania Department of Education that includes a number of tools to help plan for secondary transition, including self-assessments, job exploration, and budgeting tools.

Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

<http://askjan.org/media/ASD.html> The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on workplace accommodations and disability employment issues. Working toward practical solutions that benefit both employer and employee, JAN helps people with disabilities enhance their employability, and shows employers how to capitalize on the value and talent that people with disabilities add to the workplace.

Autism Speaks Transition Toolkit

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits/transition-tool-kit> The Autism Speaks Transition Tool Kit was created to serve as a guide to assist families on the journey from adolescence to adulthood.