

Northwest Missouri Autism Project Family Information

You are receiving this Autism Information and Resource Folder because you or your child has been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, and you may be eligible to receive services funded through the Northwest Missouri Autism Project (NWMAP). This folder contains helpful resource information that may help you navigate the support system and locate reliable service providers.

In 1991, the Missouri Autism Projects were created in the Missouri Code of State Regulations. The code describes and identifies roles and responsibilities of the 5 Autism Projects that cover the entire state. You can read the code at <http://s1.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/previous/9csr/9csr0701/9c45-3.pdf>. Each Autism Project has a Parent Advisory Committee connected to it which makes recommendations to the Director of the Division of Developmental Disabilities about a number of things, including recommending to the Director how funding allocated for the Project should be used to best serve the needs of families who have loved ones with autism spectrum disorder. The Parent Advisory Committee is made up of volunteers who are appointed by the Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The Office of Autism Services has created a webinar entitled “Autism Projects Overview” which provides greater detail about Missouri’s Autism Projects and the Parent Advisory Committees. It can be viewed at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/>. You are encouraged to view the webinar and if you are interested in applying to become a member of the Northwest Missouri Autism Project Parent Advisory Committee, contact your Regional Office and ask to speak to the Family Resource and Autism Specialist. You may view the roster of Family Resource and Autism Specialists at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/docs/familyresourceautismspecialistregion-satellite.pdf>.

The Northwest Missouri Autism Project covers the counties served by the Kansas City Regional Office and the Albany Regional Satellite Office. The telephone numbers for the regional offices are:

- Kansas City Regional Office
800-454-2331
- Albany Regional Satellite Office
800-560-8774

A variety of services may be funded by NWMAP. A sheet called “NWMAP Services” is included in your packet and can also be viewed at <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/northwest/docs/nwmapservicesrevised.pdf>. In order to receive services funded through NWMAP, an individual must:

- Have a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder, and
- Be eligible to receive services by the Division of Developmental Disabilities, and
- Have an identified need on his/her Individual Support Plan with a PON score, and

- Not have insurance or other resources that would cover the service.

Being “in the Project” currently means that you are eligible to receive services or be reimbursed for paying for services up to \$5,000 annually until your circumstances change. An individual may continue to receive services funded through NWMAP until he/she:

- Is discharged from the Division of Developmental Disabilities, or
- Declines to receive services funded through NWMAP, or
- Transfers to a region where services are unavailable due to a waitlist, lack of a provider, or unavailability of the desired service.

Your Support Coordinator can assist you with being referred to the Northwest Missouri Autism Project. At that time, you should discuss with your Support Coordinator what service(s) in the Individual Support Plan might be funded through NWMAP and ask your Support Coordinator to submit the Northwest Missouri Autism Project (NWMAP) Referral and Funding Request Packet to the Utilization Review Committee.

Enclosed in the Autism Information and Resource Folder, you will find:

1. Autism Project Map
2. Autism Project Parent Information sheet
3. “Help for Your Child with Autism” Regional Resource brochure
4. IAN brochure
5. NWMAP Guide to Services
6. Charting the Life Course
7. Missouri Family to Family Resource Center / DD Regional Office / Release of Information and Referral Form

Once you are “in the Project,” you have certain rights regarding the way your services are delivered. You may:

- Ask that your funding be redirected to a different service within the plan year.
- Ask that funding designated for a month that you did not use the service be directed to a different month within the plan year.

Note: All services/funding must be utilized before the end of the fiscal year which is June 30.

Please file this information packet with other records that you want to keep since you may want to reread it from time to time. If you have internet access, you may also check the Office of Autism Services’ website for both general information and updates. The Office of Autism Services maintains the most current information about the Autism Projects on its website. That web address is <http://dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism/>. It is also important to note that posted on that website are the roles and responsibilities of the Support Coordinator as they relate to the NWMAP. The Office of Autism Services encourages you to familiarize yourself with that document.

If you have questions about NWMAP, please contact your Support Coordinator, the Support Coordinator Supervisor, or the Family Resource and Autism Specialist in the Regional Office that serves you.