

DHS BUDGET REQUEST FOR FY 2016-2017
(\$ Amounts in Thousands)

Page # of Governor's Executive Budget:
Pp. A1.6, A1.20, C1.10, E30.2, E30.6,
E30.15, E30.27, E30.29, E30.39-40

APPROPRIATION:
Autism Intervention and Services

I. SUMMARY FINANCIAL DATA	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Available</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
State Funds	\$19,169	\$21,501	\$23,978
Federal Funds Total	\$17,467	\$18,863 ¹	\$22,273
Federal Sources Itemized			
<i>Medical Assistance - Autism Intervention Services</i>	\$17,467	\$18,863	\$22,273
Other Funds Total	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$36,636	\$40,364	\$46,251
IA. REQUESTED SUPPLEMENTALS (Included above)			
State Funds		\$0	
Federal Funds Total		\$325	
Federal Sources Itemized			
<i>Medical Assistance - Autism Intervention Services</i>		\$325	
Total		\$325	
¹ Includes a recommended supplemental appropriation of \$0.325 million. Appropriation Act 10-A of 2015 provided \$18.538 million for this program in Fiscal Year 2015-2016.			

II. DETAIL BY MAJOR OBJECT (\$ Amounts in Thousands)		APPROPRIATION: Autism Intervention and Services			
	2014-2015 Actual	2015-2016 Available	2016-2017 Budgeted	Change Budgeted vs. Available	Percent Change
PERSONNEL					
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Personnel	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
OPERATING					
State Funds	\$1,065	\$1,319	\$1,319	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$1,110	\$1,143	\$1,143	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Operating	\$2,175	\$2,462	\$2,462	\$0	0.00%
FIXED ASSETS					
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Fixed Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
GRANT & SUBSIDY					
State Funds	\$18,104	\$19,052	\$22,659	\$3,607	18.93%
Federal Funds	(\$1,585)	(\$1,143)	(\$1,206)	(\$63)	5.51%
Other Funds	\$17,467	\$18,863	\$22,273	\$3,410	18.08%
Total Grant & Subsidy	\$33,986	\$36,772	\$43,726	\$6,954	18.91%
NONEXPENSE					
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Nonexpense	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
BUDGETARY RESERVE					
State Funds	\$0	\$1,130	\$0	(\$1,130)	-100.00%
Federal Funds	\$475	\$0	\$63	\$63	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Budgetary Reserve	\$475	\$1,130	\$63	(\$1,067)	-94.42%
UNCOMMITTED					
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Uncommitted	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
OTHER					
State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Total Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
TOTAL FUNDS					
State Funds	\$19,169	\$21,501	\$23,978	\$2,477	11.52%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Other Funds	\$17,467	\$18,863	\$22,273	\$3,410	18.08%
Total Funds	\$36,636	\$40,364	\$46,251	\$5,887	14.58%

APPROPRIATION:
Autism Intervention and Services

III. HISTORY OF LAPSES (\$ Amounts in Thousands)	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2014-2015</u>	<u>2015-2016 Estimated</u>
State Funds	\$137	\$0	\$0

IV. COMPLEMENT INFORMATION	<u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>	<u>2016-2017 Budgeted</u>
State/Federally Funded			
<i>Authorized</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Filled</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Federally Funded			
<i>Authorized</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Filled</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Funded			
<i>Authorized</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Filled</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total			
<i>Authorized</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Filled</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
Benefit Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A

V. DERIVATION OF REQUEST / LEGISLATIVE CITATIONS / DISBURSEMENT CRITERIA

Derivation of Request:

The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides \$23.978 million in State funds; an increase of \$2.477 million over the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 appropriation level of \$21.501 million. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides \$22.273 million in Federal funding for Medical Assistance - Autism Intervention and Services; an increase of \$3.410 million over the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 appropriation level of \$18.863 million.

Detail on the appropriation is outlined in Section VI entitled "Explanation of Changes" on the next page.

Legislative Citations:

62 P.S. § 201

Disbursement Criteria:

Payments are disbursed upon successful completion of prepayment screens and edits, and available funding.

VI. EXPLANATION OF CHANGES (\$ Amounts in Thousands)	APPROPRIATION: Autism Intervention and Services			
	State \$	Federal \$	Other \$	Total
GRANT & SUBSIDY				
1. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides an increase for the Autism Waiver program average cost per consumer from \$3,805.91 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to \$4,287.71 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	\$1,405	\$1,520	\$0	\$2,925
2. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides an increase in the Autism Waiver monthly average consumers from 506 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to 518 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	\$300	\$325	\$0	\$625
3. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget maintains the Autism Waiver residential room and board monthly average consumers at 23 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides an increase in the monthly average Autism Waiver Room and Board rates from \$958.03 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to \$998.75 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	\$5	\$6	\$0	\$11
5. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides an increase in the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) monthly average consumers from 147 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to 152 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	\$139	\$151	\$0	\$290
6. The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget reflects a decrease in ACAP monthly average rates from \$5,348.43 in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 to \$5,264.00 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017:	(\$72)	(\$78)	\$0	(\$150)
7. Impact of the change in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage from 52.01 percent to 51.78 percent, effective October 1, 2016. Full-year blended rate decreases from 51.9625 percent to 51.8375 percent:	\$31	(\$31)	\$0	\$0
8. Impact of the 50 new autism waiver consumers for the annualization of the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Human Services Waiting List Reduction Initiative:	\$794	\$852	\$0	\$1,646
9. Impact of the loss of enhanced Federal funding associated with the Balancing Incentive Program which expired on September 30, 2015:	\$230	(\$230)	\$0	\$0
Subtotal Grants & Subsidy	\$2,832	\$2,515	\$0	\$5,347
BUDGETARY RESERVE				
1. Impact of excess Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Federal spending authority and impact of reduced Fiscal Year 2016-2017 State spending authority:	(\$1,130)	\$63	\$0	(\$1,067)
Subtotal Budgetary Reserve	(\$1,130)	\$63	\$0	(\$1,067)

VI. EXPLANATION OF CHANGES CONTINUED

(\$ Amounts in Thousands)

APPROPRIATION:

Autism Intervention and Services

	<u>State \$</u>	<u>Federal \$</u>	<u>Other \$</u>	<u>Total</u>
FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 INITIATIVES				
GRANT & SUBSIDY				
1. Expanded Services for Individuals with Disabilities				
A. To provide home and community-based services for 100 additional adults with autism spectrum disorders through the Autism waiver:				
	\$775	\$832	\$0	\$1,607
TOTAL	<u>\$2,477</u>	<u>\$3,410</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$5,887</u>

**Autism Services
Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Available**

	<u>State</u>	<u>Fed</u>	<u>Total</u>
CONSUMERS			
Autism Waiver Consumers	\$11,118,000	\$11,983,000	\$23,101,000
Residential Room and Board	\$263,000	\$0	\$263,000
ACAP Consumers	\$4,545,000	\$4,917,000	\$9,462,000
Subtotal - Consumers	\$15,926,000	\$16,900,000	\$32,826,000
OPERATING			
ADULT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT			
Consulting - Autism Program Development (Truhaven)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Consulting - Rate Setting (Mercer)	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
Island Peer Review Organization	\$22,000	\$68,000	\$90,000
Subtotal - Adult System Development	\$197,000	\$243,000	\$440,000
Contract Staff	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$1,800,000
Training and Technical Assistance (Tuscarora)	\$222,000	\$0	\$222,000
Subtotal - Operating	\$1,319,000	\$1,143,000	\$2,462,000
Special Initiatives/pilots (ineligible for Fed match)			
Drexel University	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
Penn State/Hershey	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
Subtotal - Special Initiatives/Pilots	\$2,880,000	\$0	\$2,880,000
Balance Incentive Program	(\$230,000)	\$230,000	\$0
2015 Initiatives			
Human Services Waiting List Reduction (Impact of adding 50 additional consumers to the Autism Waiver)	\$445,000	\$482,000	\$927,000
Rollbacks	\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous			
Tuscarora (Supplies, Audit Fee, and Copier Lease)	\$14,000	\$91,000	\$105,000
Tuscarora Administration Fee	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$34,000
Total Miscellaneous	\$31,000	\$108,000	\$139,000
Budgetary Reserve	\$1,130,000	\$0	\$1,130,000
Total Program Need	\$21,501,000	\$18,863,000	\$40,364,000
Supplemental needed	\$0	\$325,000	\$325,000
	Average Monthly No of Consumers	Average Cost/Consumer	
ACAP	147	\$5,348	
Autism Waiver	506	\$3,806	
Autism Waiver Additional Consumers FY 15-16	50	\$3,786	
Total	703	\$4,314	

**Autism Services
Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget**

	State	Fed	Total
CONSUMERS			
Autism Waiver Consumers	\$12,836,000	\$13,816,000	\$26,652,000
Residential Room and Board	\$274,000	\$0	\$274,000
ACAP Consumers	\$4,624,000	\$4,977,000	\$9,601,000
Subtotal - Consumers	\$17,734,000	\$18,793,000	\$36,527,000
OPERATING			
ADULT SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT			
Consulting - Autism Program Development (Truhaven)	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000
Consulting - Rate Setting (Mercer)	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$150,000
Island Peer Review Organization	\$22,000	\$68,000	\$90,000
Subtotal - Adult System Development	\$197,000	\$243,000	\$440,000
Contract Staff	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$1,800,000
Training and Technical Assistance (Tuscarora)	\$222,000	-	\$222,000
Subtotal - Operating	\$1,319,000	\$1,143,000	\$2,462,000
Special Initiatives/pilots (ineligible for Fed match)			
Drexel University	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Shadyside	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
Penn State/Hershey	\$960,000	\$0	\$960,000
Subtotal - Special Initiatives/Pilots	\$2,880,000	\$0	\$2,880,000
2015-2016 Initiatives Annualized			
Human Services Waiting List Reduction			
Impact of adding 50 additional consumers to the Autism Waiver	\$1,239,000	\$1,334,000	\$2,573,000
2016-2017 Initiatives			
Expanded Services for Individuals with Disabilities			
To provide home and community-based services for 100 additional adults with autism spectrum disorders	\$775,000	\$832,000	\$1,607,000
Miscellaneous			
Tuscarora (Supplies, Audit Fee, and Copier Lease)	\$14,000	\$91,000	\$105,000
Tuscarora Administration Fee	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$34,000
Total Miscellaneous	\$31,000	\$108,000	\$139,000
Budgetary Reserve	\$0	\$63,000	\$63,000
Total Program Need	\$23,978,000	\$22,273,000	\$46,251,000

	Average Monthly No of Consumers	Average Cost/Consumer
ACAP	152	\$5,264
Autism Waiver	518	\$4,288
Autism Waiver Additional Consumers FY 15-16	50	\$4,288
Autism Waiver Additional Consumers FY 16-17	100	\$3,333
Total	820	\$4,293

**FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget
Autism Waiver**

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 CONSUMER SERVICE COSTS

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2015	\$1,591,941	\$821,815	\$770,126	490	\$3,248.86
AUGUST	\$2,115,321	\$1,091,723	\$1,023,598	496	\$4,264.76
SEPTEMBER	\$1,391,884	\$719,623	\$672,261	472	\$2,948.91
OCTOBER	\$2,633,642	\$1,360,162	\$1,273,479	500	\$5,267.28
NOVEMBER	\$1,684,723	\$872,826	\$811,896	498	\$3,382.98
DECEMBER	\$1,923,532	\$1,000,429	\$923,103	508	\$3,786.48
JANUARY 2016	\$1,953,823	\$1,016,184	\$937,640	516	\$3,786.48
FEBRUARY	\$1,961,396	\$1,020,122	\$941,274	518	\$3,786.48
MARCH	\$1,961,396	\$1,020,122	\$941,274	518	\$3,786.48
APRIL	\$1,961,396	\$1,020,122	\$941,274	518	\$3,786.48
MAY	\$1,961,396	\$1,020,122	\$941,274	518	\$3,786.48
JUNE	\$1,961,396	\$1,020,122	\$941,274	518	\$3,786.48
Subtotal	\$23,101,847	\$11,983,374	\$11,118,474	506	\$3,805.91
				6,070	\$45,670.87

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 RESIDENTIAL ROOM AND BOARD

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2015	\$16,456	\$0	\$16,456	22	\$748.01
AUGUST	\$21,065	\$0	\$21,065	23	\$915.89
SEPTEMBER	\$19,454	\$0	\$19,454	24	\$810.56
OCTOBER	\$31,465	\$0	\$31,465	27	\$1,165.37
NOVEMBER	\$31,688	\$0	\$31,688	21	\$1,508.93
DECEMBER	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
JANUARY 2016	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
FEBRUARY	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
MARCH	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
APRIL	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
MAY	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
JUNE	\$20,407	\$0	\$20,407	23	\$906.99
TOTAL	\$262,979	\$0	\$262,979	23	\$958.03

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 CONSUMER SERVICE COSTS

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2016	\$2,221,034	\$1,155,160	\$1,065,874	518	\$4,287.71
AUGUST	\$2,221,034	\$1,155,160	\$1,065,874	518	\$4,287.71
SEPTEMBER	\$2,221,034	\$1,155,160	\$1,065,874	518	\$4,287.71
OCTOBER	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
NOVEMBER	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
DECEMBER	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
JANUARY 2017	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
FEBRUARY	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
MARCH	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
APRIL	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
MAY	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
JUNE	\$2,221,034	\$1,150,051	\$1,070,982	518	\$4,287.71
Subtotal	\$26,652,404	\$13,815,940	\$12,836,464	518	\$4,287.71
				6,216	\$51,452.52

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 RESIDENTIAL ROOM AND BOARD

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2016	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
AUGUST	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
SEPTEMBER	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
OCTOBER	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
NOVEMBER	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
DECEMBER	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
JANUARY 2017	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
FEBRUARY	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
MARCH	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
APRIL	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
MAY	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
JUNE	\$22,846	\$0	\$22,846	23	\$998.75
TOTAL	\$274,157	\$0	\$274,157	23	\$998.75

**FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget
ACAP**

FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015 CONSUMER SERVICE COSTS

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2014	\$762,137	\$407,896	\$354,242	139	\$5,483.00
AUGUST	\$767,620	\$410,830	\$356,790	140	\$5,483.00
SEPTEMBER	\$773,103	\$413,485	\$359,618	141	\$5,483.00
OCTOBER	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	142	\$5,405.77
NOVEMBER	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	142	\$5,405.77
DECEMBER	\$762,137	\$394,939	\$367,198	141	\$5,405.23
JANUARY 2015	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	141	\$5,444.11
FEBRUARY	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	142	\$5,405.77
MARCH	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	141	\$5,444.11
APRIL	\$762,137	\$394,939	\$367,198	141	\$5,405.23
MAY	\$767,620	\$397,781	\$369,839	140	\$5,483.00
JUNE	\$762,137	\$394,939	\$367,198	141	\$5,405.23
Subtotal	\$9,194,991	\$4,803,712	\$4,391,279	141	\$5,437.61
				1,691	\$65,251.27

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016 CONSUMER SERVICE COSTS

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2015	\$767,620	\$397,801	\$369,819	140	\$5,483.00
AUGUST	\$767,620	\$397,791	\$369,829	141	\$5,444.11
SEPTEMBER	\$778,586	\$403,494	\$375,092	142	\$5,483.00
OCTOBER	\$778,586	\$404,943	\$373,643	142	\$5,483.00
NOVEMBER	\$778,586	\$404,943	\$373,643	142	\$5,483.00
DECEMBER	\$789,600	\$410,671	\$378,929	150	\$5,264.00
JANUARY 2016	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
FEBRUARY	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
MARCH	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
APRIL	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
MAY	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
JUNE	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
Subtotal	\$9,461,366	\$4,916,523	\$4,544,843	147	\$5,348.43
				1,769	\$64,181.11

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 CONSUMER SERVICE COSTS

	Total \$	Federal \$	State \$	Users	Total \$ per User
JULY 2016	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
AUGUST	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
SEPTEMBER	\$800,128	\$416,147	\$383,981	152	\$5,264.00
OCTOBER	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
NOVEMBER	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
DECEMBER	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
JANUARY 2017	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
FEBRUARY	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
MARCH	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
APRIL	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
MAY	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
JUNE	\$800,128	\$414,306	\$385,822	152	\$5,264.00
Subtotal	\$9,601,536	\$4,977,196	\$4,624,340	152	\$5,264.00
				1,824	\$63,168.00

AUTISM INTERVENTION AND SERVICES

PROGRAM STATEMENT

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), commonly referred to as autism, is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. The need for adult autism services is demonstrated by the rapidly growing numbers of Pennsylvanians living with autism. According to the Pennsylvania Autism Census, there are more than 55,000 children and adults with autism living in Pennsylvania, an increase of over 180 percent from 2005. The estimated number of adults with autism in Pennsylvania is currently 17,075, and the number of adults with autism that may need services is expected to reach over 46,000 by 2020.

Based on the results of the Pennsylvania Autism Needs Assessment, 85 percent of individuals with autism also have another diagnosis such as an intellectual disability, physical health challenges, or mental health issues. Individuals with autism and their families need a range of services to live as independently as possible, participate in their communities, and enrich their quality of life.

The mission of the Office of Developmental Programs, Bureau of Autism Services (BAS) is to develop and manage services and supports to enhance the quality of life of Pennsylvanians with autism and to support their families and caregivers. BAS primarily carries out its mission through the creation and administration of adult service delivery models. In addition, BAS supports people with autism of all ages through three additional means: the development of family support programs and training programs to increase provider capacity; by providing technical assistance and autism expertise to other Department of Human Services' offices and government agencies; and through the statewide Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training (ASERT) Collaborative.

The ASERT Collaborative, established in 2009, serves as the Commonwealth's resource for individuals with autism and their families. The purpose of the ASERT Collaborative is to improve access to quality services and interventions, provide information and support to families, train professionals in best practices, and facilitate program development. ASERT supports BAS's efforts to continually improve the quality of its programs and connects existing resources and pockets of expertise to address regional gaps in effective services and supports. Additionally, ASERT serves as a valuable resource to the BAS staff and BAS provider networks supporting its program participants. ASERT collects and analyzes information about BAS programs in order to help inform change. Each year, ASERT supports an estimated 40,000 individuals, families, and professionals through their clinical services, training and outreach efforts, and their reach continues to expand significantly each year. This includes providing support through calls, emails, and newsletter distribution, as well as through the provision of information, resources, or services through online and face-to-face outreach initiatives. Since its launch in 2013, the ASERT Statewide Resource Center has had a significant impact supporting thousands of individuals, families, and professionals through the provision of information and resources.

Pennsylvania has emerged as a national leader in developing autism policy and services. At the forefront has been the development of two innovative service delivery models designed specifically for adults with a diagnosis of ASD: the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP). These programs are outcome-based and have been designed to assist participants in gaining the greatest level of independence possible, encourage involvement in community life, improve social skills, and provide support to caregivers. These two programs are uniquely different from other Pennsylvania direct service models in that they are specifically designed to meet the needs of people with autism, are administered at the state level, and do not use IQ as an eligibility factor. Providers of services under the programs are required to complete autism-specific training and to demonstrate competency.

The AAW received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in May 2008 and became effective on July 1st of that year. It is a fee-for-service Home and Community Based Services program which is administered at the state level. Priority for enrollment is given to individuals not

receiving ongoing services. It is available statewide and has the current capacity to support 568 adults with autism.

The ACAP model was approved by CMS in January 2009. ACAP is a managed care model with one rate paid to one provider for integrated physical health, behavioral health, and community services. The program is currently available only in Lancaster, Cumberland, Dauphin, and Chester counties and has the current capacity to support 152 individuals.

BAS is also responsible for the provision and approval of autism-specific trainings within the Pennsylvania Autism Insurance Act (Act 62) Behavior Specialist License requirements. One component of the law is that professional behavior specialists who provide services to children with autism under the age of 21 must have a Behavior Specialist license or a license whose scope of practice includes the diagnostic assessment or treatment of ASD. Additional components of the law remain outside of the BAS purview to implement and administer; however, BAS is leading the cross-agency implementation of Act 62.

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 INITIATIVE - EXPANDED SERVICES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

The Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Governor's Executive Budget provides \$0.775 million in state funds to provide home and community-based services for 100 additional adults with autism spectrum disorders. The Adult Autism Waiver currently has a capacity to serve 568 individuals and this initiative will increase the capacity to 668.