

Autism Resources in Central MA

RESOURCE SHEET

Updated 9/10/23

IMPORTANT

Please Note before Using:

This information can be overwhelming parents / caregivers
and is only as good as the person giving them.

Please use as a tool as you meet with families individually to help guide
them to next steps, based on the needs of that family

Remember: There is no wrong door!

*From the Worcester Autism Task Force: CENTRO, HMEA Autism Resource Center, Aceriane Leal, MA
Department of Children and Families, Tina Rodriguez, THRIVE, UMass Chan Medical School Shriver Center, YOU,
Inc. Worcester Family Resource Center and Worcester Community Connections and YOU, Inc.,
an affiliate of Seven Hills,*

Autism Resources in Central MA 9/23

FIRST STEP:

HMEA's Autism Resource Central

Speak to: Someone is always available to take the call!

<https://www.autismresourcecentral.org>

712 Plantation St., Worcester, MA 01605 / 508-835-4278 /

- o Serve 64 towns in Central Mass
- o Information and Referral to local services
- o Parent Support groups
- o Various activities and groups for children and young adults
- o Various trainings and groups including Autism 101, 102 & 103. Parent workshops
- o Stay family day camps, family activities, drop in programs
- o Parent workshops on financial planning, special needs trusts, letters of intent, transition, executive functioning, gender wellness

STEP 2:

Connect with one of the State's DDS (Department of Developmental Services) Family Support Centers to connect with DDS services and additional broad supports

1) CENTRO- great for bilingual services

Speak to: Rosa Ramos, Assistant Director of the Family Support Center / rramos@centroinc.org

Worcester Multicultural Family Support Center
11 Sycamore Street, Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 798-1900 x 243

- o Case & Service navigation
- o Educational webinars.
- o Works with UMass Autism resource center –aba pilot program in Spanish
- o Emergency Preparedness workshop
- o Can refer families to CENTRO's CBHI, food pantry, housing, DV, etc.

OR / AND

2) THRIVE

Speak to: Merari Alvarado, Family Support Coordinator / malvarado@icanthrive.org

Family Support Center
100 Grove Street, Suite 104 Worcester, MA 01605
774-703-3033

- o Workshops
- o Have an educational advocate

- o IEP in Spanish
- o IEP clinic
- o Citizenship process workshop for undocumented families
- o Many after school programs for youth and adults
- o Para transit workshops
- o Hoping to open a food pantry in Worcester for DDS families

OR / AND

3) **Seven Hills Family Support Center**

Speak to: See contacts below per Support Center site

NORTH CENTRAL FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

1460 John Fitch Highway, Fitchburg, MA 01420

Joseph Escribano

Senior Family Support Specialist

Phone: 978.602.8692 office

Phone: 508.981.4663 cell

Email: jescribano@sevenhills.org

SOUTH VALLEY FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

208 Charlton Road, Sturbridge, MA 01566

Elizabeth Carroll

Senior Family Support Specialist

Phone: 774.241.2500

Email: ecarroll@sevenhills.org

NORTH QUABBIN FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

2280 Main Street, Athol, MA 01331

Linda Wilson

Senior Family Support Specialist

Phone: 978.602.8805

Email: liwilson@sevenhills.org

- o Information and Referral
- o Navigation Services
- o Family Training
- o Individual and Small Group Consultation
- o Community Connection and Resources

Seven Hills Family Supports Parent Trainings & Events *Be sure to check out our events at <https://www.sevenhills.org/whats-happening/calendar>*

Be sure to check out our Trainings at <https://www.sevenhills.org/family-training-videos?hsLang=en>

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STEP 3:

Insurance Resource Center for Autism and Behavioral Health *(of the UMass Chan Medical School Shriver Center)* **For All Insurance Related Questions**

Our phone number for IRC is 774-455-4056.

<https://massairc.org/>

- o Information and referral on issues related to Insurance Coverage for Treatments and Services
- o Technical assistance and support
- o Fact Sheet Library on range of insurance-related topics covering both public and private insurance – available in multiple languages
- o Support for Employers and Individuals covered by Self-Funded (ERISA) Plans
- o Webinars and trainings on insurance laws and related topics

OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Autism Speaks

<https://www.autismspeaks.org/>

- Tool Kits
- What do you put in place for the first 100 days
- The largest autism research organization in the US

The Federation for Children with Special Needs – For additional education support

www.fcsn.org

Fill out the intake form online!

- The Federation empowers families so that they have the information and resources they need for their children. We work with families with children from birth to adulthood, providing individual assistance, training, and leadership development and support.

We focus on education, early intervention, health care, transitions, children in foster care and group homes, and building strong family engagement to support all children, especially those children with disabilities, those at risk, and those with economic, cultural or linguistic barriers.

OTHER EDUCATION HELP:

Governor Baker signed new legislation – allows kids with autism to go to college!!

Massachusetts Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment Initiative (MAICEI)

GO TO: <https://www.mass.edu/strategic/maicei.asp>

****Go to the website and inquire with your school district!**

4/25/23 Presentation by Worcester Public Schools on their services for children with autism:

CLICK HERE FOR RECORDING:

https://sevenhills-org.zoom.us/rec/share/-mBMVFNUdZmngYHDvMprD0SfhmXAY-Wc0DLLsCg5LLotq_byNFbjil6RZ1ho0IUU.8y_f2Er5G8SmtXc

Passcode: 8PVC+bnk

Center for Living and Working Transition to Adult Program

The Transition to Adulthood Program (TAP) at Center for Living & Working, Inc. provides consumer-directed services to students between the ages of 14 and 21 who are in high school with a disability.

Through the provision of four core services: Skills Training, Peer Counseling, Advocacy (both individual and in the community) and Information and Referral. Center for Living & Working, Inc. works with students who are motivated or want to become motivated to reach their independent living goals.

Through Skills Training, Center for Living & Working, Inc. utilizes the "Peer Model" approach. Meaning, trained Skills Trainers work with consumers to develop an independent living plan and together, work towards attaining consumer-directed goals.

Contact: 508 798 0350

MCPAP for ASD-ID has been started across the state!

- MCPAP for ASD-ID offers support and consultation to Emergency Services Program/Mobile Crisis Intervention (ESP/MCI) providers working with youth and young adults with ASD or ID who are having a behavioral health crisis.
- <https://www.mcpap.com/ASDID/overview.aspx> FAQ and flyer about MCPAP-ASDID program

IMPORTANT! Children's Autism waiver

- The Autism Waiver Program (AWP) allows children to receive Expanded Habilitation, Education, in-home services and supports, such as Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) and Floor Time, for a total of up to 3 years. At the conclusion of the three years of the intensive in-home services, a child may access ongoing Supplemental Services (for example respite and goods and services, etc.) that meet the child's needs and help with the transition out of the intensive Autism Waiver Program until the child's 10th birthday.
- <https://www.mass.gov/dds-autism-waiver-service-program-overview>
- Children chosen by lottery. Letters of interest are accepted in October only!!
- To prepare: Must get DDS approval ahead. Please prepare ahead – see website above!

Statewide Sibling Support Group:

Intended for Siblings of Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder, Developmental Disabilities and/or Mental Health Issues
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sG4pYqSS8LcpEocrEKTCFDWC62dY5Bcf/?usp=sharing>

Additional suggested resources:

FCSNTransition (Google Groups ListServ)

- FCSNTransition is a place to share postsecondary transition topics & issues, share planning strategies, and brainstorm creative ideas to create informed transition planning for students with disabilities aged 14-22, with a focus on Massachusetts.

Autism Housing Pathways

- Autism Housing Pathways (AHP) is a family-driven, membership-based organization serving individuals and families in Massachusetts impacted by autism and other developmental disabilities.
- Homepage - Autism Housing Pathways: <https://autismhousingpathways.org/>
- Contact: Cathy Boyle: ccampboyle@autismhousingpathways.org or by calling 617-604-4362.

Education

DESE/DDS – Collaboration between Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services & Department of Elementary & Secondary Education students ages 6-21 years old– Open enrollment each March .

- The DESE/DDS Residential Prevention Program is a collaboration between the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) and the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) for DDS-eligible students who are at risk of a future residential placement. You don't need to already be found to be DDS eligible. You can apply to the DESE/DDS Program while also simultaneously applying for DDS Child Eligibility

Link to more information: [DESE DDS Program | Mass.gov](#)