Bridging The Services Gap

*This is provided for information purposes only. This is not legal or medical advice.*

Whether your family is waiting for a diagnosis, waiting for services or appealing for therapy there are things your family can do to try to bridge the gap.

**Washington State’s Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe)**

Washington State’s Wraparound with Intensive Services (WISe)* provides comprehensive behavioral health services and supports to Medicaid eligible youth, up to 21 years of age, with complex behavioral health needs. WISe is designed to provide individualized, culturally competent services that strive to keep youth with intense mental health needs safe in their own homes and communities, while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations.

Learn more: [Wraparound with Intensive Services (WiSE)](https://www.wa.gov/developmental-disabilities-administration)

**Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA)**

DDA is a state funded program for individuals with disabilities that is based primarily on the severity of the person’s disability.

**Information about eligibility, application and services:**

- Informing Families Building Trust fact sheet on DDA Services can be found [here](#).
● Informing Families Building Trust Applying for DDA in Washington can be found here.
● Informing Families Building Trust fact sheet on Autism and DDA Eligibility can be found here.

Apply for DDA Benefits

● You can find the application for DDA Services here.
● We recommend taking the application to the Arc for assistance filling it out. The Arc excels with DDA applications (and they have many other excellent programs/resources). You can learn more about the Arc here.

Social Security Administration (SSA)

A family can receive disability benefits for their child (under age 18) by completing the following steps:

● You will need to complete an Application for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) AND a Child Disability Report. The report collects information about the child’s disabling condition and how it affects his/her ability to function.

Steps to Apply:

1. Review the Child Disability Starter Kit¹. This kit answers common questions about applying for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for children, and includes a worksheet that will help you gather the information you need.

¹ https://www.ssa.gov/disability/disability_starter_kits_child_eng.htm
2. Contact Social Security right away to find out whether the income and resources of the parents and the child are within the allowed limits, and to start the SSI application process.

3. Fill out the online Child Disability Report. At the end of the report, we will ask you to sign a form that gives the child's doctor's) permission to give us information about his/her disability. They need this information so that they can make a decision on the child's claim.

1-800-772-1213.

https://www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply-child.html

Purchase a secondary insurance plan ("Qualified Health Plan (QHP)"

A "Qualified Health Plan (QHP)" is an individual or family private insurance plan available for purchase through the Health Plan Finder or directly from some WA insurance companies. All QHP's in Washington must cover ABA, ST, OT, PT for ASD. Some members purchase a QHP to obtain services while on Medicaid ABA waitlist. **If you are eligible for a Qualified Health Plan/Private Insurance** plan the one our members most often recommend Premera. The next option they recommend after Premera is Regence and after that is Kaiser. You may wish to consult with an insurance broker familiar with Autism related benefits.

Here are the insurance brokers recommended by our members (please share any recommendations you have):

- Darcie Guyer-Dickerson: darcieguyer@gmail.com or call 206-419-6611.
- Ann Miller: Ann@annmillerinsuranceservices.com or call 425-736-6937
Additionally, you can search for an insurance broker [here](#). Information for how to choose a broker can be found [here](#).

You can apply through the Washington Health Plan [Finder here](#).

**Resources**

**Washington Autism Alliance & Advocacy**

**Resource Directory**

A list of resources for everything from autism diagnosis and interventions, to financial and legal advocacy. Look up a specific resource by provider name or search by type of service offered.

**Parent Partners**

WAAA’s Parent Partners are here to help you untangle the details. They have come from a variety of educational backgrounds and have deep roots in Washington’s autism community. They have traveled this road many times and know some of the most efficient routes to help you access the supports and services your child needs to thrive at any age.

425.836.6513

[http://www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org](http://www.washingtonautismadvocacy.org)

**Washington Information Network 211**

211 is An easy-to-remember phone number for people to call for health and human service information and referrals and other assistance to meet their needs.
The Arc of Washington State

Advocates for the rights of citizens with developmental disabilities.

888-754-8798

www.arcwa.org/

Mental Health Crisis

If you or your loved one are experiencing a mental health crisis call the Crisis line in your area: State Mental Health Crisis Lines²

² https://www.dshs.wa.gov/bha/division-behavioral-health-and-recovery/state-mental-health-crisis-lines