



*REPORT TO THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*  
On Human Services and Public Health

Public Act 24-134  
Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism

April 2025

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State of Connecticut

Department of Social Services  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In accordance with Section 8 of Public Act 24-134, the Commissioner of Social Services, in consultation with the Office of Policy and Management, was required to report details on the Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism. The report requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) to report various information on the age ranges of persons on the Autism Waiver waitlist, the number and ages of individuals being served by the Waiver, and other information regarding individuals on the waitlist and on the Waiver.

Public Act 24-134, passed during the 2024 legislative session, replaces previous reporting requirements from CGS 17a-215e.

### I. Report requirements:

The report shall include, but need not be limited to, aggregated, deidentified data from the prior fiscal year regarding: (1) The number and age ranges of persons waiting for services in the Medicaid waiver program and the number and ages of persons currently being served by the waiver program; (2) The number and age ranges of persons waiting for residential care and the number and ages of persons receiving residential care through the Medicaid waiver program; (3) The number and age ranges of underserved persons currently receiving services in the Medicaid waiver program but who are waiting for additional services in the Medicaid waiver program and a brief description of the services for which such persons are waiting; (4) The number and age ranges of persons added to and subtracted from the waiting list for the previous calendar year; (5) Whether the waiting list has increased or decreased over the previous calendar year and, if so, by how many persons; (6) Measurable data, if such data is available to the department, including outcome data, for persons who are eligible to receive services pursuant to the Medicaid waiver program for persons with autism spectrum disorder, including, but not limited to: (A) The number of such persons who are enrolled in postsecondary education, (B) the employment status of such persons, and (C) a description of such persons' living arrangements, including, if applicable, the ages of such persons' guardians with whom they reside; and (7) Recommendations to further reduce the waiting list and associated costs. (d) The commissioner shall post the report on the department's Internet web site.

### II. Available Data:

*Request (1) The number and age ranges of persons waiting for services in the Medicaid waiver program and the number and ages of persons currently being served by the waiver program*

The Home and Community Supports Waiver for Persons with Autism (the Autism Waiver), sees growth year over year on the waitlist. At the time of this report, there were 2,249 individuals on the waitlist. There are 217 individuals actively receiving services on the waiver and 140 individuals are assigned case managers and are moving through the eligibility and enrollment process for the waiver.

Age breakdown

	<b>3-10</b>	<b>11-21</b>	<b>22-30</b>	<b>31-40</b>	<b>41-50</b>	<b>51+</b>
<b>Waitlist</b>	495	908	705	116	13	12

<b>Active or in enrollment process</b>	1	83	112	121	19	10
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*Request (3) The number and age ranges of underserved persons currently receiving services in the Medicaid waiver program but who are waiting for additional services in the Medicaid waiver program and a brief description of the services for which such persons are waiting*

The Autism Waiver case managers build care plans for the needs of the individual within available resources of the provider network. There are areas of the state with less provider coverage, and it may take time to staff a care plan, but ultimately there are no underserved members. There are services that the individuals could benefit from but are not available under the waiver. However, at the time of this report, all care plans are meeting the needs of the individuals within the cost cap and utilizing wrap-around state plan services.

*Request (4) The number and age ranges of persons added to and subtracted from the waiting list for the previous calendar year; (5) Whether the waiting list has increased or decreased over the previous calendar year and, if so, by how many persons*

For calendar year 2024, the waitlist added 159 new people with 300 people removed from the waitlist. People are removed from the waitlist for a variety of reasons which include moved out of state, no longer interested in receiving waiver services, not found eligible, unwilling to cooperate with the Medicaid process, receiving services under another program, or determined to have an intellectual or developmental disability.

We are unable to report on the age ranges of the individuals added to the active waiver list in 2024 due to limitations in our reporting. The department is currently in a process improvement for waitlist management.

*Request (6) (A) The number of such persons who are enrolled in postsecondary education, (B) the employment status of such persons, and (C) a description of such persons' living arrangements, including, if applicable, the ages of such persons' guardians with whom they reside*

The Department does not have the requested data for the waitlist but can report on those active on the waiver:

Enrolled in post-secondary education	62
Employed at least part time	76
Over the age of 21 and residing with family	106

The Department does not formally track the ages of guardians and cannot report on that data point.

### III. Unavailable Data:

This report asked the Department to provide data on the following areas that are not applicable or not available:

*Request (2) The number and age ranges of persons waiting for residential care and the number and ages of persons receiving residential care through the Medicaid waiver program.*

The Autism Waiver does not support residential care therefore we cannot report out on this metric.

## IV. Recommendations:

### *Request (7) Recommendations to further reduce the waiting list and associated costs*

Given the current appropriations, we are targeting to serve an additional 400 individuals through fiscal year 2028 currently on the waitlist. In order to meet these goals, the Department has identified two key areas where process improvements can be made to better support the individuals waiting for services. These process improvements are in various stages of design, development and implementation. The first area is maintenance of the waitlist process. We are evaluating the process to find efficiencies and ways to streamline efforts. Currently, to be placed on the Autism Waiver waitlist, an applicant is screened by DSS' sister agency, DDS. The eligibility team at DDS places individuals on the Autism waitlist but does not determine eligibility for the waiver. They only add the person to the waitlist after they are not found eligible for DDS services and have an autism diagnosis. This waitlist is not revisited by DDS unless requested by DSS. This creates a gap, especially for the younger individuals that may ultimately be deemed eligible for DDS services once an intellectual disability is determined. This process is under review collaboratively between DSS and DDS to define a more streamlined waitlist management approach. The second major area for improvement is the on-boarding process once an individual is reached on the waitlist. This could take up to a year as testing, disability determination, and waiver eligibility is completed. The Department has already addressed a number of gaps in this area to reduce the time this takes and continues to evaluate our internal processes.