

**Department of Public Welfare
Bureau of Autism Services**

Autism Waiver Initial Enrollment Process

In order to promote equal access, the Department of Public Welfare will conduct a lottery to determine the order of application to the Autism Waiver. The Bureau of Autism Services will begin taking requests for applications for the Autism Waiver on July 1, 2008, through the Bureau's toll-free number (866-539-7689).

The Autism Waiver gives priority to individuals not already receiving state funded or state and federally funded home and community based services (e.g., OBRA Waiver, Person/Family Directed Supports (PFDS) Waiver, or Consolidated Waiver). Individuals not already receiving services will be considered Priority 1 while individuals receiving services will be considered Priority 2. During the six-week period (from July 1 through Aug. 11, 2008) all applicants who call the toll-free number will be contacted by Bureau staff and will be categorized as Priority 1 or Priority 2. At the end of this initial six-week period all applicants will be assigned a randomly generated number. Then, beginning with Priority 1, Bureau staff will send applications for the waiver in order of the randomly generated numbers until capacity is reached (i.e., 200) or until all Priority 1 individuals are enrolled. Applications will then be sent to Priority 2 callers.

If applicants remain on the lottery list after waiver capacity is reached, they will be placed on a waiting list for services in the order of their randomly generated number. Anyone calling to apply for the waiver after the close of the six-week lottery period will be added to the waiting list in the order in which they called the toll-free number to request an application.

The concept of a lottery system for waiver applications was suggested by the stakeholder members of the Autism Waiver Advisory Workgroup. They determined this to be the best way to give equal access to all potential applicants by allowing time for the community to learn of the possibility of applying for the waiver and understand the application process. A lottery system was deemed the fairest way to allow for news of this opportunity to spread beyond those who may have greater access to informational resources.