



ASPERGER
FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

Services Throughout the U.S. for Adults on the Autism Spectrum:
A Study by Asperger Foundation International

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Because services for individuals with disabilities in the U.S. are administered at the state level, each state has some degree of latitude as far as how it defines mental illness and developmental disability, and who it determines eligible for services under those categories. Most states have some variation of a department, division, or office serving individuals with developmental disabilities and a department, division, or office serving individuals with mental health issues. The purpose of this study is to detail and compare those policies throughout the country as they relate to individuals on the Autism Spectrum who do not have cognitive impairments.

Much of the terminology used in these policies means different things in different contexts. In this report:

- **Autism Spectrum** and/or **Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)** refer to the entire group of pervasive developmental disorders, including classic (Kanner's) Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified.
- However, **Autism** by itself refers to the diagnosis of classic Autism only, unless otherwise indicated. This is an important distinction, as there is considerable variability in adult outcomes for classically Autistic individuals, but none of the official diagnostic manuals (such as the American Psychiatry Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual IV*) currently differentiate among individuals with the Autism diagnosis based on level of functioning and/or independence potential.
- **High-Functioning Autism** is not a scientific term or an official diagnosis, and when used in this report it simply means individuals with the classical Autism diagnosis who have an average or above average IQ. Of course, as anyone who has tried to obtain support for those individuals knows, IQ scores do not always paint a complete picture of how "high-functioning" someone really is.
- **Mental retardation** refers to an IQ score below a certain point, usually 60 or 70 depending on the jurisdiction. According to the current *DSM-IV*, in order to qualify for an Asperger Syndrome diagnosis, one must not, by definition, have mental retardation.

This table breaks down the information that AspFI has obtained from staff members at these agencies about the general policies of each of the 50 states (and DC) regarding services for adults on the Autism spectrum who do not have mental retardation. Information is also included about how many local jurisdictions there are in the state at which eligibility determinations are actually made, as different organizations (which may be public or private depending on the state) in different geographic areas each interpreting the same policy could add yet another variable to how the needs of all individuals on the Autism Spectrum are recognized. We also attempted to obtain statistical data about how many individuals with specific diagnoses (Asperger's, PDD-NOS, etc.) and/or at different levels of functioning on the Autism Spectrum were receiving services from the agencies. However, virtually no states had data that was any more specific than the number of individuals receiving services who are somewhere on the Autism Spectrum, and many states do not even track that information.

This chart is color-coded based on the types of policies the agencies have:

- **Dark blue** denotes agencies that purport to serve individuals with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. Note that there is always some other additional eligibility criteria, such as level of adaptive functioning limitation. No state has as its policy that anyone with one or more of these diagnoses is automatically eligible for services without any further assessment, which does not necessarily mean people who need services are being excluded and/or subjected to needless bureaucratic hurdles. Because Autism is a spectrum and individual profiles of abilities and challenges can be so different, there are certainly people on the Spectrum who are able to function independently and lead meaningful lives and have no need for the kinds of support these agencies provide. However, many individuals with Asperger Syndrome, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, and Autism - even "high-functioning" Autism - sorely need services, and these agencies at least consider people who come to them with any of those diagnoses for eligibility.

- **Yellow** indicates that some, but not all, diagnoses on the Spectrum are eligible.
- **White** indicates that the agency is not authorized to provide services specifically for disorders on the intellectually higher functioning end (if anywhere) of the Autism Spectrum (though with many of these agencies, people on the Spectrum might have co-occurring conditions, such as mental illness, that would make them eligible).
- **Light blue** indicates a lack of a state-wide, centralized policy.

	Developmental Disabilities	Mental Health
A L A B A M A	<p>Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation http://www.mh.state.al.us/ Department does not provide direct services. Contract with multiple private not-for-profit agencies to provide service, which have great discretion and may or may not work with higher functioning adults on the Autism Spectrum.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation http://www.mh.state.al.us/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. There is no official policy, but a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum could potentially qualify a person for therapy or pharmacology services.</p>
A L A S K A	<p>Division of Senior and Disabilities Services http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dsds/ Eligibility is based more on functional ability than on specific diagnosis, and adults with any diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum can and have been found eligible depending on their level of functioning. Eligibility determined in three regional offices, with applications typically done completely by mail due to difficulty of traveling around the state.</p>	<p>Division of Behavioral Health http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dbh/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the Spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
A R I Z O N A	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities Services http://www.azdes.gov/ddd/ Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could be eligible for services, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. Three district offices oversee multiple local offices, where eligibility is determined.</p>	<p>Div of Behavioral Health Services http://www.azdhs.gov/bhs/index.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the Spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
A R K A N S A S	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/ddd/ Eligibility based more on functional ability than on specific diagnosis, and adults with any diagnosis on the Autism spectrum can and have been eligible, depending on their level of functioning. The 75 counties in state each have at least one county office where eligibility determinations are made.</p>	<p>Div of Behavioral Health Services http://www.state.ar.us/dhs/dmhs/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the Spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

C A L I F O R N I A	<p>Department of Developmental Services http://www.dds.ca.gov/index.cfm There are four categories of developmental disabilities in California, one of which is Autism (meaning Autistic Disorder only, not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS). However, there is a fifth category of eligibility for individuals with conditions that are "closely related to mental retardation or that requires treatment services that are similar to mental retardation," and who are substantially disabled in three or more areas of major life skills. Persons with AS or PDD-NOS can be eligible for services under the fifth category if their condition meets the above criteria. Not all persons with AS or PDD-NOS are eligible for regional center services. In California, services are provided by 21 independent, not-for-profit agencies throughout the state with which the Department of Developmental Services contracts.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.dmh.ca.gov/ Asperger Syndrome, but not Autism, can be considered a mental health diagnosis in California, and could make an individual eligible for services from the Department of Mental Health depending on the level of functional limitation. Anyone in California, with any Autism spectrum diagnosis, could be eligible for services for a co-occurring mental illness for which a typically developing individual would otherwise be eligible.</p>
C O L O R A D O	<p>Developmental Disabilities Services www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/dds/DDS_center.html Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could potentially be eligible for services, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. However, 97.2% of people receiving services have mental retardation. Eligibility determined at twenty Community-Centered Boards.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health www.cdhs.state.co.us/ohr/mhs/index.html Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
C O N N E C T I C U T	<p>Department of Mental Retardation http://www.dmr.state.ct.us/ Do not provide services for adults without mental retardation</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health and Addictive Services http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
D E L A W A R E	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities Services www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/ddds/index.html Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could be eligible for services, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. All applications throughout the state are reviewed for eligibility determination by Dr. Joseph Keyes, Director of Professional Services.</p>	<p>Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health http://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dsamh/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

D C	<p>Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities Administration http://mrdda.dc.gov/ Do not currently provide services for adults without mental retardation. However, a new policy expanding the definition of developmental disabilities has been written, but the details of the new codes and when they will be implemented are not available.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://dmh.dc.gov Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
F L O R I D A	<p>Developmental Disabilities Program http://www.fddc.org/home/index1.asp Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could be eligible for services, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. Applicants with Autism would have to meet criteria similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities (onset before adulthood, adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely). Eligibility determinations made at 15 area offices throughout the state.</p>	<p>Mental Health Programs Office http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/mentalhealth/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
G E O R G I A	<p>Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases http://mhddad.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site Determinations of eligibility are made on a case-by-case basis, and individuals on the higher functioning end of the Autism Spectrum, regardless of their specific diagnosis, could be found eligible depending on the need for services and the similarity of the needs to those of an individual with mental retardation. Eligibility determinations are made at a single point of intake in each of seven regions throughout the state.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Addictive Diseases http://mhddad.dhr.georgia.gov/portal/site Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Mental illness and mental retardation/developmental disability specialists would work together as much as possible in cases where both types of conditions are co-occurring.</p>
H A W A I I	<p>Developmental Disabilities Division http://www.hawaii.gov/health/disability-services/developmental/index.html Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility determinations are made at case management units, of which there are eight on Oahu and one on most of the other populated islands.</p>	<p>Adult Mental Health Division http://amhd.org/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise provide be able to provide services. Sometimes on remote islands, staff and clinicians will provide services that Developmental Disabilities Division might otherwise provide if they are more able to access the client.</p>

<p>I D A H O</p>	<p>Bureau of Developmental Disabilities http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility determinations are made at 7 regional offices.</p>	<p>Department of Health and Welfare http://www.healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>I L I N O I S</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www.dhs.state.il.us/mhdd/dd/ Individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible for services depending on the similarity of their level of functioning and their needs to mental retardation. Community organizations receive state funding to do eligibility determinations. There is an appeal process at both the regional and state levels whereby applicants who disagree with eligibility determinations could seek redress from representatives who work for the state.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health http://www.dhs.state.il.us/mhdd/mh/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>I N D I A N A</p>	<p>Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services www.in.gov/fssa/servicedisabl/field/index.html The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at 8 field offices throughout the state.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health and Addiction http://www.in.gov/fssa/servicemental/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>I O W A</p>	<p>Division of Behavioral, Developmental and Protective Services for Families, Adults and Children http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs2005/mhdd/ Services would mostly be available through a county system, as there is no Medicaid waiver in the state for developmental disabilities that do not constitute mental retardation. The counties each have the discretion to determine which diagnoses are eligible for developmental disabilities services, and the amount of money available would depend on the county's financial resources.</p>	<p>Division of Behavioral, Developmental and Protective Services for Families, Adults and Children http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/dhs2005/mhdd/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Individuals with both mental illness and developmental disability would be able to receive the same mental health services, if not more, as typically developing individuals with comparable mental illnesses.</p>

<p>K A N S A S</p>	<p>Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Community Services and Supports http://www.srskansas.org/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum who are determined to need services to successfully remain in the community would receive services. Eligibility determinations are made by 27 private, not-for-profit Community Developmental Disabilities Organizations throughout the state.</p>	<p>Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Adult Mental Health Team http://www.srskansas.org/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>K E N T U C K Y</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services http://mhmr.ky.gov/KDMHMRS/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible if they meet the level of need of Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities. Eligibility determinations are made at 14-15 private Community Mental Health Centers, which may have some additional criteria of their own.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services http://mhmr.ky.gov/KDMHMRS/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Applicants would go through the same staff at the Community Health Centers as work with Developmental Disabilities.</p>
<p>L O U I S I A N A</p>	<p>Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=77 The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at 10 regional offices.</p>	<p>Office of Mental Health http://www.dhh.louisiana.gov/offices/?ID=62 Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>M A I N E</p>	<p>Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bds/ The state's statutory policies have not been changed since only mental retardation was covered and do not necessarily include anyone without mental retardation as having a developmental disability that makes them eligible for services, however the policy has been interpreted as including the complete Autism spectrum in recent years. As such, the Department does work with individuals with High-Functioning Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified. If someone does not meet mental retardation criteria, adaptive functioning is taken into account. Eligibility determinations are made by community providers with whom the Department contracts.</p>	<p>Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/bds/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Mental health and developmental disabilities specialists would try to work together as much as possible in cases of co-occurring conditions.</p>

<p>M A R Y L A N D</p>	<p>Developmental Disabilities Administration http://www.ddamaryland.org/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility determinations are made at 4 regional offices.</p>	<p>Mental Hygiene Administration http://www.dhmmh.state.md.us/mha/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>M A S S</p>	<p>Department of Mental Retardation http://www.mass.gov/dmr Do not provide services for adults without mental retardation. However, Department is in the process of starting up an Autism division, but it will only serve children initially.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.mass.gov/dmh Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>M I C H I G A N</p>	<p>Department of Community Health http://www.michigan.gov/mdch The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at 48 Community Mental Health Centers.</p>	<p>Department of Community Health http://www.michigan.gov/mdch Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>
<p>M I N N E S O T A</p>	<p>Disabilities Services Division http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_000083.hcsp Individuals on the Autism spectrum, including those with Asperger Syndrome, can receive Developmental Disabilities services under the criteria of a related condition to mental retardation, depending on the extent of their functional limitations. Eligibility determinations are made by case managers, one of which is assigned in each of the 87 counties throughout the state.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/main/groups/disabilities/documents/pub/DHS_id_000085.hcsp If deemed medically necessary, some services could be obtained with only an Autism Spectrum diagnosis</p>
<p>M I S S I S S I P P I</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.dmh.state.ms.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility determinations are made by 5 community diagnostic teams.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.dmh.state.ms.us/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability, and attempts would be made to find someone in the department with the best speciality to help the individual.</p>

<p>M I S S O U R I</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility determinations are made at 11 regional centers throughout the state.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.dmh.mo.gov/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>
<p>M O N T A N A</p>	<p>Disability Services Division http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/dsd/govt_programs/dp/index.htm Do not provide services for adults without mental retardation.</p>	<p>Addictive and Mental Disorders Division http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/aboutus/divisions/addictivementaldisorders/index.shtml An Autism Spectrum condition could be classified as a mental illness and make an individual eligible for services as such depending on the level of functioning.</p>
<p>N E B R A S K A</p>	<p>Developmental Disabilities System http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/dip/dipindex.htm The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at 5 regional offices throughout the state.</p>	<p>Division of Behavioral Health http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/beh/behindex.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>N E V A D A</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services http://mhds.state.nv.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility determinations are made at regional offices - there are 3 regions in the state with up to 6 offices per region.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services http://mhds.state.nv.us/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability. State is developing work group for joint cases of co-occurring developmental disability and mental illness.</p>
<p>N E W H A M P S H I R E</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Services http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BDS/default.htm Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. However, there is currently a wait list based on imminent need. Eligibility determinations are made at 12 private not-for-profit agencies throughout the state, with which the Division contracts.</p>	<p>Bureau of Behavioral Health http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/BDS/default.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services. Some Community Mental Health Centers have dual diagnosis teams specializing in co-occurring developmental disabilities and mental illness.</p>

NEW JERSEY	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/ddd/ The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at regional offices - there are 4 regions, each with 2 offices.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health Services http://www.state.nj.us/humanservices/dmhs/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services. They are build up a small dual diagnosis program with the Developmental Disabilities division.</p>
NEW MEXICO	<p>Longterm Services Division http://www.health.state.nm.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible if they meet the level of need of Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities. Eligibility determinations are made at regional offices throughout the state.</p>	<p>Behavioral Health Services Division http://www.health.state.nm.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
NEW YORK	<p>Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities http://www.omr.state.ny.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility determinations are made at 11 regional offices.</p>	<p>Office of Mental Health http://www.omh.state.ny.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
NORTH CAROLINA	<p>Division of Mental Health http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on their individual profile and the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility determinations are made at 25 local offices.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhddsas/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>
NORTH DAKOTA	<p>Disability Services Division http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/disabilities/dd.html The Disability Services Division's developmental disabilities services are geared primarily toward mental retardation, and most of its consumers fit that profile. However, in theory, the federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning people on the higher functioning end of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility is determined at 8 regional Human Service Centers.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services http://www.nd.gov/humanservices/services/mentalhealth/ While individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders are generally considered developmental disabilities as opposed to a mental illness, these individuals would be provided services if they do not qualify in the developmental disabilities system and are in need of services. Also would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

<p>O H I O</p>	<p>Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities http://odmrdd.state.oh.us/ The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are made at 88 county boards throughout the state.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.mh.state.oh.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>O K L A H O M A</p>	<p>Developmental Disabilities Services http://www.okdhs.org/ddsd/ Do not provide services for adults without mental retardation</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services http://www.odmhsas.org/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>O R E G O N</p>	<p>Department of Human Services http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/dd/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations (except Oregon only requires limitations in 2 functional areas as opposed to 3), likely to continue indefinitely. However, there tends to be less funding and fewer funding options for individuals with developmental disabilities other than mental retardation. Eligibility is determined at 36 Community Developmental Disability Programs.</p>	<p>Office of Mental Health and Addiction Services http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/mentalhealth/index.shtml Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>P E N N S Y L V A N I A</p>	<p>Mental Retardation Services http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Disable/MentalRetardationServices/ Do not provide services for adults without mental retardation</p>	<p>Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Family/MentalHealthServ/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

<p>R H O D E I S L A N D</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www.mhrh.ri.gov/developmental_disabilities.htm The federal definition of developmental disabilities is used to determine eligibility, meaning individuals with any of the Autism Spectrum diagnoses could be eligible, if their adaptive functioning limitations were sufficient. Eligibility determinations are all made at one centralized state office.</p>	<p>Division of Behavioral Health http://www.mhrh.ri.gov/integrated_mental_health.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>S O U T H C A R O L I N A</p>	<p>Department of Disabilities and Special Needs http://www.state.sc.us/ddsn/ Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could be eligible for services, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. However, there is a specialized Autism Division for those who do meet that criteria. The majority of eligibility determinations are made at 3 diagnostic clinics throughout the state.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health http://www.state.sc.us/dmh/ One Mental Health Center in the state has a social skills day program specifically for adults on the Autism Spectrum. Otherwise, only provide traditional mental health services, for which people with Autism Spectrum Disorders could qualify by the same criteria as typically developing individuals with mental illnesses.</p>
<p>S O U T H D A K O T A</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/dd/Index.htm Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility is determined at 19 private, not-for-profit Adjustment Training Centers throughout the state funded by the Division.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health http://www.state.sd.us/dhs/dmh/Index.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>T E N N E S S E</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities http://www.state.tn.us/mental/ State law was changed in 2001 to move from a strictly mental retardation system to a system serving the entire population defined by the federal definition of developmental disabilities. However, no money has actually been allocated so far for these services for individuals on the Autism Spectrum who are higher functioning in terms of IQ. The Family Support Program (through the Division of Mental Retardation) offers some services, mostly respite, for people who live with their family only with any kinds of "severe" disabilities, including ASD but also physical disabilities.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities http://www.state.tn.us/mental/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>

<p>T E X A S</p>	<p>Department of Aging and Disabilities Services http://www.dads.state.tx.us/ Adults with an Autism diagnosis who are high-functioning in terms of IQ could potentially be eligible under a Medicaid Waiver program, but not Asperger Syndrome or Pervasive Developmental Disorder-NOS. Those individuals could still have access to (fairly limited) state-funded services, for which eligibility is determined at 41 Local Authorities.</p>	<p>Department Of State Health Services http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
<p>U T A H</p>	<p>Division of Services for People with Disabilities http://www.hsdspd.state.ut.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, if they met the state's functional criteria, which are similar to the federal definition of developmental disabilities: onset before adulthood, sufficient adaptive functioning limitations, likely to continue indefinitely. Eligibility is determined at 4 Regional Units.</p>	<p>Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services http://www.dsamh.utah.gov/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs. Would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services, if Developmental Disabilities Division is not determined to be the best fit to provide those services.</p>
<p>V E R M O N T</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Services http://www.dail.state.vt.us/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on their individual profile and the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility is determined at 10 designated not-for-profit agencies throughout the state over which the state has oversight.</p>	<p>Division of Mental Health www.healthyvermonters.info/ddmhs/index.shtml Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services, preferably in tandem with Developmental Disabilities Services.</p>
<p>V I R G I N I A</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible if they meet the level of need of Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities. Eligibility is determined by providers in the community setting with whom the Department contracts.</p>	<p>Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services http://www.dmhmrzas.virginia.gov/ Same agency as Developmental Disabilities, with no clear hierarchical divide between the two services. Nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>
<p>W A S H.</p>	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/ddd/index.shtml Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations. Eligibility is determined at Divisional Offices, one of which is located in each of six geographic regions throughout the state.</p>	<p>Mental Health Division http://www1.dshs.wa.gov/geninfo/mhealth.html Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

W E S T V I R G I N I A	<p>Bureau of Behavioral Health and Health Facilities http://www.wvdhhr.org/bhhf/ Eligibility for Developmental Disabilities services is based on functional limitations, and someone with any Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger Syndrome, could potentially qualify for virtually any of services depending on their level of adaptive functioning. A Medicaid Waiver program requires meeting Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation level of care needs, but several other programs are available for individuals who do not need so much support. Eligibility determinations are made by private, local behavioral health agencies.</p>	<p>Bureau of Behavioral Health and Health Facilities http://www.wvdhhr.org/bhhf/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>
W I S C O N S I N	<p>Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/bdds/ Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible if they meet the level of need of Intermediate Care Facility for Mental Retardation/ Developmental Disabilities. Also, at the county level, some resources are available of varying amounts (depending on the county's property tax revenue) for people who need less care. The state's 72 counties individually determine eligibility and have fairly liberal guidelines for doing so.</p>	<p>Bureau of Mental Health and Addiction Services http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/MH_BCMH/index.htm Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but services are administered at the county level so a diagnosis on the Autism Spectrum might qualify someone for counseling or something like that in the traditional jurisdiction of mental health services to provide, depending on their county. Would also provide services for anyone on the Spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services. At least, nobody would be denied services because they also had a developmental disability.</p>
W Y O M I N G	<p>Division of Developmental Disabilities http://wdh.state.wy.us/DDD/index.asp Individuals with any of the diagnoses on the Autism Spectrum could be eligible, depending on the extent of their adaptive functioning limitations and whether or not it constitutes a closely related condition to mental retardation. All applications go through central state office.</p>	<p>Mental Health Division http://mhd.state.wy.us/ Is not designated as agency to provide services or programs specifically for ASDs, but would provide services for anyone on the spectrum who had a co-occurring mental illness for which they would otherwise be able to provide services</p>

Vocational Rehabilitation

In addition, every state receives federal money under the Rehabilitation Act to be used for vocational rehabilitation for individuals with disabilities, and every state has some office or department administering those funds. There are federal guidelines as far as eligibility for those funds - states are not allowed to say that only certain types of disabilities can qualify people for services; they are supposed to look at levels of functional limitations on a case-by-case basis. So, legally, someone with any Autism spectrum disorder could be eligible in any state, depending on the seriousness of their impairment. In our interviews with all 51 vocational rehabilitation agencies throughout the country, nobody said that individuals with Asperger Syndrome, Autism, and/or Pervasive Developmental Disorder would be categorically excluded from services from their agency, or that they were otherwise not in compliance with the federal Rehabilitation Act. The text of the Rehabilitation Act is posted online at www.access-board.gov/enforcement/Rehab-Act-text/title1.htm