

## AUTISM REFERRAL PROCESS

Contact CMHCM at 989-772-5938 and ask for Austim services, or you may contact any of our county offices:

### **Clare County**

789 North Clare Avenue  
Harrison, MI 48625  
989.539.2141

### **Isabella County**

301 South Crapo Street  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
989.772.5938

### **Gladwin County**

655 East Cedar Street  
Gladwin, MI 48624  
989.426.9295

### **Mecosta County**

500 South Third Avenue  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
231.796.5825

### **Midland County**

218 Fast Ice Drive  
Midland, MI 48642  
989.631.2320

### **Osceola County**

4473 220th Avenue  
Reed City, MI 49677  
231.832.2247

## RESOURCES

### **Autism Alliance of Michigan**

<http://autismallianceofmichigan.org>

### **Autism Society of America**

[www.autism-society.org](http://www.autism-society.org)

### **Autism Society of Michigan**

[www.autism-mi.org](http://www.autism-mi.org)

### **Center for Disease Control**

[www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/index.html)

### **Michigan Alliance for Families**

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

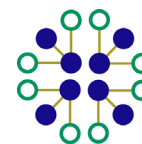
### **Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services**

<http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs>



## SPECIALIZED AUTISM PROGRAM FOR YOUTH AGES BIRTH TO 21 YEARS

Community Mental Health for Central Michigan provides Applied Behavior Analysis and other services to Medicaid-eligible youth diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, autism is characterized by impaired social interactions, problems with verbal and nonverbal communication, repetitive behaviors, and/or severely limited activities and interests. The goals of treatment for ASD focus on improving core deficits in communication, social interactions, and restricted behaviors. Changing these fundamental deficits may benefit children by developing greater functional skills and independence.



**Community  
Mental Health**  
FOR CENTRAL MICHIGAN

## Eligibility

### Who is eligible for the specialized Autism program through CMHCM??

- Individuals under 21 years of age
- Individuals who meet the diagnostic criteria for an Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Individuals who have Medicaid benefits

### What services will CMHCM provide?

- Provide a thorough psychological evaluation by a psychologist to provide an autism diagnosis to those who are eligible and to identify service needs
- Complete an assessment to determine communication and behavioral needs
- Provide specialized Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) treatment if medically necessary
- Work with parents and caregivers to teach skills for helping individuals develop to their full potential



## What does the Specialized Autism Program involve?

Individualized and intensive interventions through Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) are provided for up to 25-hours per week in home, in centers, and in community settings. ABA is an Evidence Based Practice that follows a scientific approach to increase positive behaviors and replace challenging behaviors with functional skills.

### Behaviors to increase:

- Meaningful communication (through vocalization, sign language, pictures, adaptive devices, etc.)
- Independent daily living skills
- Tolerance of things like waiting, changing routines, being told “no,” and following directions
- Improved social interactions

### Behaviors to decrease:

- Aggression
- Tantrums
- Self-injury
- Elopement/running away

### All behaviors occur for a reason.

- Access to things, activities, social interactions
- Escape/avoid things, demands, social situations
- Sensory or automatically reinforcing

*ABA determines the function of the behavior and teaches replacement behaviors that will gain the desired outcome.*

## Parents/Caregivers Involvement is Important



Research has shown that when parents are involved in the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) therapy process, outcomes are more positive.

ABA is most effective with a team approach. If the behaviors that the ABA therapist teaches to the youth are not generalized, reinforced, and maintained by family, then one of two things may happen: the child will lose the skill, OR the child will only display the skill for the therapist. What that might look like is a child who is able to use the bathroom, but wets their underwear when they are alone with their parents. Partial success only when the therapist is around is not the goal.

An understanding of ABA and a commitment to the process is essential for success of this program.

The parents, or primary caregivers, need to know and understand the ABA therapy goals, behavior plans, and strategies so well that in the ABA therapists' absence they could independently run a therapy session.