



WASHINGTON AUTISM ALLIANCE & ADVOCACY

Helping families impacted by Autism & other developmental disabilities

OUR MISSION

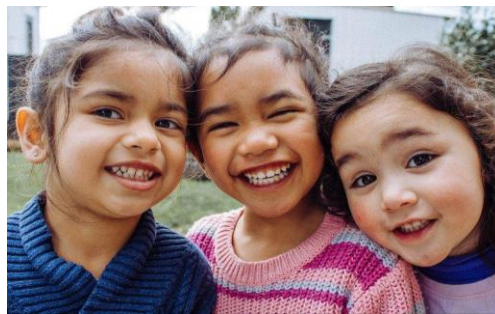
Our mission is to ensure that all children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) & other developmental disabilities (DD) have every opportunity to thrive and become productive members of society. We do this by helping families access ASD & DD health insurance benefits, effective services in schools, and supportive community-based services, regardless of their personal financial situation. Our organization works diligently to bridge the gap between the many health and education policies that exist to serve children and adults with ASD and other DDs, and the educators, politicians, and medical providers who want to support these policies. We strive for health care equity and equality for people with disabilities so everyone can thrive.

OUR PROGRAMS



FAMILY NAVIGATION

Our Family Navigators work directly with families to help identify and reach community resources and treatment services, access health insurance coverage, provide guidance in navigating the education system, and build knowledge and advocacy skills.



HEALTH LAW ADVOCACY

Our health law team provides insurance navigation, legal assistance, and pro bono insurance appeal support to families to help them use their private or state insurance to access ASD/DD screening, diagnosis, and treatment.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

WAAA advocates for legislation that directly supports, expands, and improves the health, safety, education, resources, and services available for children and adults with ASD and other DDs in the state of Washington.



FRIENDSHIP MATTERS

Youth group for teens 13-17 with ASD and other DDs to make friends through community-based activities that improve their social skills, develop lasting friendships, and enjoy a crucial sense of acceptance and belonging.



SUPPORTING PARENTS

Supporting Parents of Autism (SPA) is a time for parents and family members to get together with other parents and share the struggles, challenges, and joys of parenting children with autism and other developmental disabilities.



RESOURCES

- State-wide Resource Directory
- Insurance Tool-kits
- Information on IEPs & 504 plans
- Parent Support Network
- Monthly newsletter



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1 in 59
CHILDREN HAVE AUTISM
IN THE UNITED STATES

33,600
CHILDREN HAVE AUTISM
IN WASHINGTON STATE

70%
OF INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM HAVE
AT LEAST ONE ADDITIONAL DIAGNOSIS

HOW WE HELP FAMILIES IMPACTED BY AUTISM & OTHER DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



Receiving a diagnosis of autism or other developmental disability can be distressing for many parents – **and finding the resources and support to help their child can be extremely difficult.** Autism (ASD) can severely impair a person's ability to communicate, socialize, attend school, and live independently, and frequently brings with it a variety of other co-occurring genetic, neurological, and psychiatric conditions, such as Down Syndrome, Bipolar Disorder, and Tourettes. Over 70% of individuals with ASD have at least one additional diagnosis and 40% have 2 or more, requiring an integrated, multidisciplinary treatment plan to improve the overall quality of life in autism spectrum disorders.

Despite Washington State and federal policies that require that insurance companies cover medically necessary treatments for children with ASD and DD, children are routinely denied insurance coverage for treatments. When ASD treatments are not

COST OF LIFELONG CARE CAN BE
REDUCED BY 2/3 ▼
WITH EARLY DIAGNOSIS & TREATMENT

received early in a child's life, the child is likely to develop debilitating behaviours requiring costlier, intensive wraparound support services later in life.

Your support now helps to ensure that every child with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities (DD) gets the health benefits, education, and services they need to thrive and succeed in life.

You'll be helping parents like Amy, a single mother of three. One of Amy's children has autism and she struggles daily to be his best advocate. "It is overwhelming," she states, "But WAAA helped me understand our rights, so I could focus on being a mom and nurturing my children rather than researching everything on my own. Today I'm a lot more comfortable supporting my child and getting him the services he needs."

Your donation will help WAAA provide services to struggling families like Amy's. **Please make a contribution today.**

BECOME A MEMBER

To access our services, register to become a member of WAAA. You will be kept up-to-date on resources, events, recent progress in legislation and advocacy, and learn about ways to become involved with WAAA.



CONTACT US

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VOLUNTEER

Be a catalyst for change and give back to the community with your time and skills. We are looking for volunteers to help with administrative support, communications, website maintenance, events grant writing, and more.



