

ABSTRACT

Project Title: Innovation in Care Integration for Children and Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities Program Grant

Applicant Name: Washington State Department of Health, Division of Prevention and Community Health, Access, Systems and Coordination Section

Address: PO Box 47880, Olympia, WA 98504-7880

Project Director: Meredith Pyle, CSHCN Program Supervisor

Phone: 360-236-3536 **FAX:** 360-586-7868 **Email:** Meredith.Pyle@doh.wa.gov

Web: Healthy Starts and Transitions

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/AboutUs/ProgramsandServices/PreventionandCommunityHealth/OfficeofHealthyCommunities/HealthyStartsandTransitions>

Funding Request: \$420,000 per year for three years; September 1, 2016-August 31, 2019.

NEEDS: Autism is a complex, lifelong neurodevelopmental disability typically appearing during the first three years of life, affecting approximately 1 in 68 children and youth in Washington (WA) State. There is a need to increase access to comprehensive, coordinated health care and related services for WA children and youth with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Other Developmental Disabilities (ASD/DD) and their families to initiate earlier diagnosis, intervention, and family support services. There are gaps and weaknesses in the primary and specialty care systems to be addressed, particularly around developmental screening and diagnostic services which directly impact when a child gains access to intervention services. Medical home and developmental screening training and supports are needed for primary care practices, especially for those serving medically underserved populations. Families and providers need training and support to build strong family-professional partnerships and address cultural and linguistic barriers to screening, diagnosis, intervention services and working partnerships. Greater coordination and collaboration is needed among state agencies and organizations, local community agencies and organizations, families, and other stakeholders to make services easier for families to use.

PROPOSED SERVICES/GOALS:

1) Improve access to interventions for children, youth and families with ASD/DD, including those in medically underserved and rural areas, by increasing the availability, timeliness, quality, and interconnectedness of identification/screening, referral, and diagnosis/evaluation services.

2) Empower families with children and youth with ASD/DD to partner with professionals in decision-making related to individual, community, and statewide systems care.

3) Strengthen the policies state-level leadership and systems-level integration needed to ensure the timely identification of children and youth with ASD/DD and access to family-centered, comprehensive, coordinated, and culturally and linguistically competent services.

A systematic approach to overcoming these and other barriers around the access to needed care for children and youth with ASD/DD will be developed at the state level to ensure that children and their families have access to a system of care that is easy to use, culturally competent, comprehensive, coordinated, and family-centered.

FOCUS POPULATION:

The focus population is all WA State children and youth with ASD/DD and their families, particularly younger children and families in medically underserved populations across the state in rural and urban areas who experience health disparities. They are under-resourced/low-income, culturally and linguistically diverse families with limited English proficiency who face barriers to accessing needed healthcare.