

Applying for Services in Your County

In Pennsylvania, every county has a Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ ID) office. The MH/ ID office in your county is where you go to enroll yourself or your child in many different mental health or developmental services. This resource will help you learn about how your county MH/ ID office can help you apply for and get the services and supports that you or your child needs, if you are found eligible .

WHAT IS AN MH/ID OFFICE?

MH/ID offices oversee some Medicaid-funded mental health and developmental services in a specific county. Sometimes the county MH/ID office has a different name. For example, these offices can be called Mental Health/Intellectual Disability (MH/ID) office, Behavioral Health/Intellectual Disability (BH/ID) office, or the Developmental and Behavioral Health office. Sometimes you will also hear the MH/ID office called the “Administrative Entity”, or AE. Each county has a slightly different name for the MH/ID office, but every office can help you apply for services that you or your child may need.

To see a list of the county MH/ID offices, visit: www.paautism.org/mhid. If you still have questions about how to contact your MH/ID office, contact the ASERT Resource Center (info@paautism.org or 1-877-231-4244).



HOW DO I FIND MY COUNTY'S MH/ID OFFICE?

Each county has an MH/ID office. Sometimes multiple counties share one MH/ID office. For example, the Armstrong-Indiana Behavioral and Developmental Health Services Office serves both Armstrong and Indiana county. To find your county MH/ID office visit: www.paautism.org/mhid, and select your county from the list. You can also contact the ASERT Resource Center (info@paautism.org or 1-877-231-4244) to help you find your county MH/ID office.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT I CALL MY COUNTY MH/ID OFFICE?

In Pennsylvania, Medicaid-funded mental health and developmental services are administered at the county level. To apply for these services in your county, you need to contact your county MH/ID office. If you or your child need services, your county MH/ID office will be able to help you apply, enroll, and get services if you or your child are eligible.

WHAT SERVICES DOES MY COUNTY MH/ID OFFICE OFFER?

Your county MH/ID office can help you apply for many services. They can help you apply for and get access to:

- **Early Intervention Services** (for kids younger than 3 years old). If you or your doctor have a concern about your child's development, you can contact your county MH/ID office and ask about early intervention services. For more information about early intervention visit: www.paautism.org/earlyintervention.
- **Intensive Behavioral Health Rehabilitation Services** (IBHS, or wraparound) (for kids younger than 18 years old). IBHS provide one-on-one supports for children with serious emotional or behavioral challenges. For more information about BHRS visit: <https://paautism.org/resource/intensive-behavioral-health-services/>.
- **Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) Waivers**: This includes the Consolidated Waiver, Person/Family Directed Support Waiver (P/FDS Waiver), and the Community Living Waiver (for people with autism, intellectual, and developmental disabilities of all ages) and the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW) and the Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP) (for adults with autism over 21 years old). Waivers are programs that provide services for people who need extra support to live independently in their communities. For more information about waivers visit: www.paautism.org/waivers

County MH/ID offices also manage mental health services for children and adults, and substance use services. If you are not sure what services and supports that you or your child needs, call your county MH/ID office or the ASERT Resource Center (info@paautism.org or 1-877-231-4244) to help you!