



## **Reform 2020: Intensive Services for Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder**

### **Issue:**

- Minnesota has a growing number of children with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) diagnosis.
- Medical Assistance currently offers some supports for children with autism but does not offer a comprehensive early intervention benefit set for children under the age of 18.
- The 2012 Legislature directed DHS to examine services and housing for children with ASD through several workgroups and advisory councils.

### **Proposal:**

- Creates a benefit set that includes high-quality, medically necessary, evidence-based therapeutic and behavior intervention treatments and associated services. Covered services will seek to improve a child's communication skills, increase social interactions and reduce maladaptive behaviors for children with ASD at a critical time in their development.
- Requires a multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluation for ASD services to determine what the most effective treatment plan will be, including the amount of early intervention therapy, such as occupational, physical and speech therapies.
- Services will be coordinated with existing services available through schools and through the existing Children's Therapeutic Services and Supports benefit and other service providers.

### **Impact:**

- The proposal promotes fuller participation by children in their family, schools and community life, reduced need for intensive intervention over time and successful integration into adulthood. These improvements will reduce the need for institutional placements of children served.

### **Number of people affected:**

- Approximately 440 children will be eligible for this new benefit set in fiscal year 2014. This number increases to 880 children per fiscal year beginning in fiscal year 2015.

### **Fiscal impact:**

- FY 2014: \$3.74 million
- FY 2015: \$8.26 million
- FY 2016: \$8.26 million
- FY 2017: \$8.26 million

### **Related information:**

- Minnesota Management & Budget website: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>
- New section of Chapter 256B

- Autism pages on DHS website: <http://www.dhs.state.mn.us/autism>

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