

# Collaborative Efforts Among Federal, State, Local, and Nongovernmental Agency Partners to Improve the Lives of Children and Families Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders and Related Developmental Disabilities

Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC)  
Town Hall Meeting  
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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Health Resources and  
Services Administration (HRSA),  
Maternal and Child Health Bureau  
(MCHB)



# Combating Autism Act

- Enacted as Public Law 109-416 on December 19, 2006
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to “combat autism through research, screening, intervention and education”



# Combating Autism Act

## GOAL:

Enable all infants, children, and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and other developmental disabilities to reach their full potential.



# Combating Autism Act

- NIH research into causes, diagnosis, early detection, intervention and treatment,
- CDC's Disabilities Surveillance and Research Program,
- HRSA to increase awareness, promote evidence based interventions, reduce barriers to screening & diagnosis, and train professionals to diagnose and provide evidence based interventions.



# Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)



# HRSA's Autism Program

Improve access to services:

- screening children early for possible ASD and other Developmental Disabilities (DD),
- conducting early, interdisciplinary, evaluations to confirm or rule out ASD and other DD, and
- if a diagnosis is confirmed, providing evidence-based, early interventions.



# Program Overview

Address ASD and other developmental disabilities by:

- Increasing awareness;
- Reducing barriers to screening and diagnosis;
- Supporting research on evidence-based interventions;
- Promoting evidence-based guideline development;
- Training professionals to utilize valid screening tools to diagnose and to provide evidence based interventions.



# Programs in 4 Areas

## 1. Training Programs

- 34 Expansions and 5 new Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Related Disabilities (LEND) programs,
- Expansions to Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics training programs
- National Interdisciplinary Training Resource Center (Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD))





# Training Programs

## Purpose:

- Educate interdisciplinary health professionals
- Provide continuing education and technical assistance to other providers
  - Increase awareness, evidence based tools
- Contribute to building systems of services



# Autism Intervention Research

## 2. Autism Intervention Research (AIR) Networks

- Physical Health—The General Hospital Corporation of Boston
- Behavioral Health—University of California at Los Angeles



# Purpose of AIR Networks

## Purpose:

Improve the health of children and adolescents with ASD and other DD by:

- Establishing and maintaining a network infrastructure
- Utilizing the networks as platforms from which to conduct research on evidence based practice for interventions



# Purpose of AIR Networks

- Conducting research on evidence based practices;
- Developing evidenced based guidelines and validate tools for interventions to improve health; and
- Disseminating information on research, guidelines, and tools to health professionals and the public, especially families impacted by ASD and other DD.



# State Demonstration and Policy

## 3. State Demonstration and Policy Programs

- Nine State Grants to implement state autism plans to improve systems of services for children with ASD and other DD
- State Public Health Coordinating Center (AMCHP)



# State Demonstration and Policy

## Purpose:

### Promote Improved Systems of Services:

- Partnerships between professionals and families,
- Access to comprehensive family-centered health care coordinated with pediatric subspecialties and community services,
- Access to adequate health insurance and financing for needed services,
- Early and continuous screening and intervention,
- Community services organized for easy use, and
- Transition to adulthood.



# National Evaluation

## 4. National Evaluation

- Required by the “Combating Autism Act of 2006.”
- Logic Model and Research Questions for the entire Initiative
- Will be reported in HHS Secretary’s Report to Congress on progress related to ASD and other developmental disabilities





## Combating Autism

[www.mchb.hrsa.gov/autism](http://www.mchb.hrsa.gov/autism)

This \$37 million effort, HRSA's implementation of the Combating Autism Act of 2006, addresses some of the most urgent issues affecting people with autism and their families. A national evaluation also will be conducted to report to Congress on progress related to Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities.

The evaluation will contribute to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary's Report to Congress on progress related to Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disabilities as required by the Combating Autism Act of 2006.

### Funded Activities

- ▶ [Training for Professionals](#)
- ▶ [State Demonstrations and Policy](#)
- ▶ [Autism Intervention Research Networks](#)

- ▶ Increasing awareness;
- ▶ Reducing barriers to screening and diagnosis;
- ▶ Supporting research on evidence-based interventions for children and adolescents with Autism Spectrum Disorders or other developmental disabilities;
- ▶ Promoting evidence-based guideline development for interventions; and
- ▶ Training professionals to utilize valid screening tools to diagnose and to provide evidence based interventions.

### Goal

Enable all infants, children and adolescents who have, or are at risk for developing, autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities to reach their full potential by

- ▶ **developing a system of services** that includes screening children early for possible Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disorders;
- ▶ **conducting early, interdisciplinary, evaluations** to confirm or rule out Autism Spectrum Disorders and other developmental disorders; and,
- ▶ **providing evidence-based, early interventions** when a diagnosis is confirmed.



### About Autism

- ▶ [CDC: Autism Information Center](#)
- ▶ [NICHD: Autism Spectrum Disorders](#)

### Combating Autism Act

- ▶ [Combating Autism Act: Public Law 109-416](#) (PDF, 49 KB)
- ▶ [NIMH: Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee](#)
- ▶ [IACC: Strategic Plan for Autism Spectrum Disorder Research](#)

### Related Journal Articles

- ▶ [A National Profile of the Health Care Experiences and Family Impact of Autism Spectrum Disorder Among Children in the United States, 2005-2006](#)



# For Additional Information

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