



Making a Difference in: MAINE



MISSION

www.AutismSpeaks.org

Autism Speaks is dedicated to increasing awareness, research, advocacy and family services for all who struggle with autism spectrum disorders; and to better the lives of those affected by an autism spectrum disorder.

FAMILY SERVICES

www.AutismSpeaks.org/family_services

- Autism Video Glossary – A web-based tool to help parents and professionals learn more about the autism's early signs and diagnostic features.
- 100-Day Kit for Newly Diagnosed Families – this free kit provides helpful, personalized information which includes local resources, support groups, where and how to find services, local conferences and recreational activities (also available in Spanish).
- School Community Toolkit – available online to assist members of the school community in understanding and supporting students with autism.
- Autism in the Workplace – An online workplace resource for individual with autism
- Family Services Resource Guide – lists numerous MA resources and more nationwide. This extensive, searchable online database brings resources to families, like early intervention to adult services, and is searchable by zip code.
- Autism Response Team (ART) – the ART team is comprised of full-time, paid employees who are also parents of children with autism. The ART specialists are experienced and trained to respond to a variety of questions and concerns from families affected by autism. Call 1-800-AUTISM2 to speak with an ART representative.
- Dental Tool Kit – Toolkit for families and dentists to improve the experience for individuals with ASD at dental appointments.
- Transition Tool Kit – Designed to help guide parents of individuals with ASD ages 14-21 transition to adulthood.
- Family Support Tool Kit – Support toolkits that are designed specifically for parents, grandparents, siblings, and friends. The purpose of each kit is to help teach family members and friends more about autism and its effects on families, and provide resources and support to enable them to lead happy and successful lives with their loved ones with autism.
- School IEP Guide – a helpful guide to help families understand the IEP process as their loved ones head back to school: *Individualized Education Program (IEP): Summary, Process and Practical Tips*.
- Housing and Residential Supports – By giving you the tools you need to make housing choices; we hope to make this often complicated journey as simple and successful as possible.
- And many more at www.Autismspeaks.org/family-services/tool-kits!

SCIENCE

www.AutismSpeaks.org/science

Autism Speaks has committed over **\$160 million** in grants to support **775 promising research projects and fellowships** into the causes and treatments of autism. Many of those projects are happening in New England!

ADVOCACY

www.AutismVotes.org

In Maine and across the country, advocates are working hard to make sure that education, insurance, and social services policies are responsive to the needs of families impacted by autism. To join state and federal advocacy efforts, please visit our national advocacy movement at www.autismvotes.org

What does the Maine ARICA law do?

- The law requires health insurance plans to cover diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorder for children through 5 years old. Treatments include habilitative and rehabilitative care (including applied behavior analysis, psychiatric care, psychological care, and therapeutic care, when prescribed following a determination of medical necessity by a licensed physician or a licensed psychologist. Coverage for applied behavior analysis (ABA) is limited to \$36,000 per year, but there are no limits on the number of provider visits, and there are no dollar or number of visit limitations on other covered treatments.

When did the law requiring insurance companies to cover services for children with autism spectrum disorder go into effect?

- The law applies to plans issued or renewed on or after **January 1, 2011**.

AWARENESS

www.AutismSpeaks.org

This past April, during Autism Awareness Month, many Mainers showed their support of the autism community by taking part in the Autism Speaks Light It Up Blue campaign to light their business or office in blue light.

- **State Capitol building in Augusta**
- **First Congregational Church in Pittsfield**
- **Chadwick's Florist in Houlton**
- **Federal Post Office in Houlton**
- **Hangar Pizza in Patten**
- **Grammy's Restaurant in Linneus**



In September, 2013, many Maine families participated in the Walk Now for Autism Speaks, Northern New England event in Manchester, NH. More than 1500 people participated in the Walk, which helped raise awareness all across the region.

LOCAL CONTACTS

www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/nne

Our Web page: www.WalkNowforAutismSpeaks.org/NNE

Our Facebook page for Maine, NH, and VT: www.facebook.com/NNE.WNFAS

Our Flickr page: www.flickr.com/walknownewengland

STAFF

www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/nne

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