EXHIBIT D

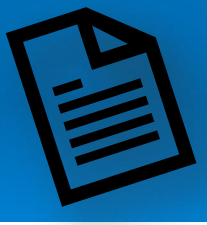
# Division of Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS)

October 8, 2025

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

# Developmental Disability Services under the Department of Human Services

# Applying for IDD Services



- Referral Intake – Online Form or Call 501-683-5687

**Single point of access to get connected to services!**

- Beneficiaries or their parent/guardian can apply for the Community and Employment Supports 1915(c) Waiver or the Autism Waiver by contacting DDS Referral Intake
- Beneficiaries can apply for Medicaid coverage through https://access.arkansas.gov
- SSI is a federal program- beneficiaries may apply for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) at https://ssa.gov/benefits/ssi

About the Division of Developmental Disabilities Services - Arkansas Department of Human Services

# Division of Developmental Disabilities Services Strategic Plan 2025-2026

- **Promoting independence and integration**
  - Enabling Tech Pilot
  - Adult IDD Pilot with A-State
  - Transition Autism and ICF 704 determinations to DDS
  - NEW: Leading development of ABI Waiver
- **Improving Access for children receiving DD Services**
  - ABA Stakeholder Workgroup – ABA Manual
  - Revisions to OT/PT/SP Manuals
  - Updates to EIDT Manual
- **Improve access and availability of CES Waiver**
  - Update CES Waiver
  - Collaborate with OSAMH on the HCBS Provider Manual
- **Process Improvements and employee retention at HDCs**
  - Implementing MatrixCare
  - Continued work with WeHeart Program
  - Behavioral Consultation Committee
  - Quality Improvement Committee

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DDS-Strategic-Initiatives-Plan-2025-2026.pdf

# Services

## CES Waiver

- 1915c Waiver. Beneficiary enrolled into a PASSE. Covers HCBS services to help individuals live and work in the community.
- 8233 slots allowed per year (500 slots reserved for DCFS); No age limit. Currently around ~1900 individuals on the Waitlist.
- Includes services: Supportive Living, Supported Employment, Consultation, Specialized Medical Equipment, Respite, Environmental Modifications, and Adaptive Equipment

## Autism Waiver

- 1915c Waiver. Provides intensive HCBS services for children 18 months up to 8 years old but must be enrolled before 5th birthday to receive maximum 3 years of services.
- Must have an Autism Spectrum Diagnosis (ASD) diagnosis
- 180 slots

## Children Special Services

- Care Coordination for children from birth to 21 with a qualifying long term physical or developmental conditions, to support access to services, respite, and special medical equipment.
- RN Care Coordinators located statewide

## Early Intervention & Adult Day Treatment

- Clinic based care that supports children and adults' with qualifying developmental disabilities with day habiliative services, including PT/OT/SP and Nursing

# Services

*Services not managed directly by DDS

## Applied Behavioral Analysis

- Behavioral treatment for youth with ASD that uses operant conditioning (i.e. Positive reinforcement) to change behavior and incentivizes new skill acquisition
- Must have an ASD diagnosis

## PT/OT/Speech Therapy

- Habilitative therapies like speech, occupational therapy (OT), and physical therapy (PT) are services that address skill and functioning deficits in activities of daily living or that have not yet developed. This is different from rehabilitative therapy, which aims to restore skills that were lost or impaired due to illness, injury, or disability.

## Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF/DD)

- Residential care that provides 24/7 care, support, and "active treatment" to people with qualifying intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## Personal Care*

- Assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) such as eating, bathing, dressing, personal hygiene, toileting and ambulating for individuals with qualifying diagnosis.

## Counseling & Crisis Services*

- Services to assess and treat mental health and/or substance abuse conditions

# Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

# Background

Autism spectrum disorder was "condensed" into a single, umbrella diagnosis in 2013, with the publication of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5). This change combined several previously separate diagnoses into the single category of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including:

- Autistic Disorder
- Asperger's Disorder
- Childhood Disintegrative Disorder
- Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS)

The motivation for this revision was to improve consistency and accuracy in diagnosis. Research had found that different clinics and professionals were not applying the separate diagnostic labels in a uniform way. By moving to a single spectrum diagnosis, the goal was to provide a common framework and ensure more people who need support can receive appropriate services.

# A.C.A 20-77-124 – ASD Diagnosis

**“Autism spectrum disorder”** means a condition that is diagnosed by at least two (2) qualified professionals of different types from the list in subdivision (a)(4)(B) of this section who each conclude that a child fully meets the diagnostic criteria under the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders;

(B) **“Qualified professional”** only includes a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, or licensed speech-language pathologist.

# Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA)

# Background

## What is Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)?

- ABA is an intensive behavioral therapy treatment for youth with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) that uses operant conditioning (i.e., positive reinforcement) to change behavior and incentivize new skills
  - An ABA course of treatment is developed by a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA; master's degree) and administered under the supervision of the BCBA by an unlicensed registered behavior technician (RBT)
  - ABA should be individualized for each youth's unique behavioral presentation, and care should be offered in a manner to maximize translation of skills across settings
  - ABA can range from a few hours per week up to 40 hours per week, and is often offered in the child's home, though can be offered in other settings (ex. clinic)

# ABA At a Glance

## Who can provide ABA Therapy?

Many provider types can practice ABA (e.g., psychologists, special-ed teachers if they are certified by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) and have obtained a Medicaid certification for BCBA, BCaBA or RBT.

| Primary Providers | Description |
|---|---|
| Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) | Primary provider. Designs tx plans. Has a masters degree. |
| Board Certified Assistant Behavior Analyst (BCaBA) | Works under supervision of BCBA. Typically has a bachelors degree. |
| Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) | Entry-level. Under supervision. HS degree + training |

## Applied Behavioral Analysis Manual

- New Provider Manual went live on 1/1/25.
- Stakeholder workgroup started 8/21/25

## Who benefits from these services?

Individuals from 18 months up to 21 years old with a diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and behavior(s) ) or functional skill deficits that are disrupting or interfering with the child's ability to learn, communicate, or and/or socialize with developmentally same-age peers.

# COMMUNITY AND EMPLOYMENT SUPPORTS (CES) WAIVER ELIGIBILITY

# Summary - A.C.A. 20-48-101

**DDS CES Waiver Eligibility Criteria**

1) Verification of a categorically qualifying developmental disability (or other condition)

2) The disability must be present prior to age 22

3) Substantial functional limitations in three or more major life areas are present because of the qualifying developmental disability or related condition

4) The disability and deficits are expected to continue indefinitely

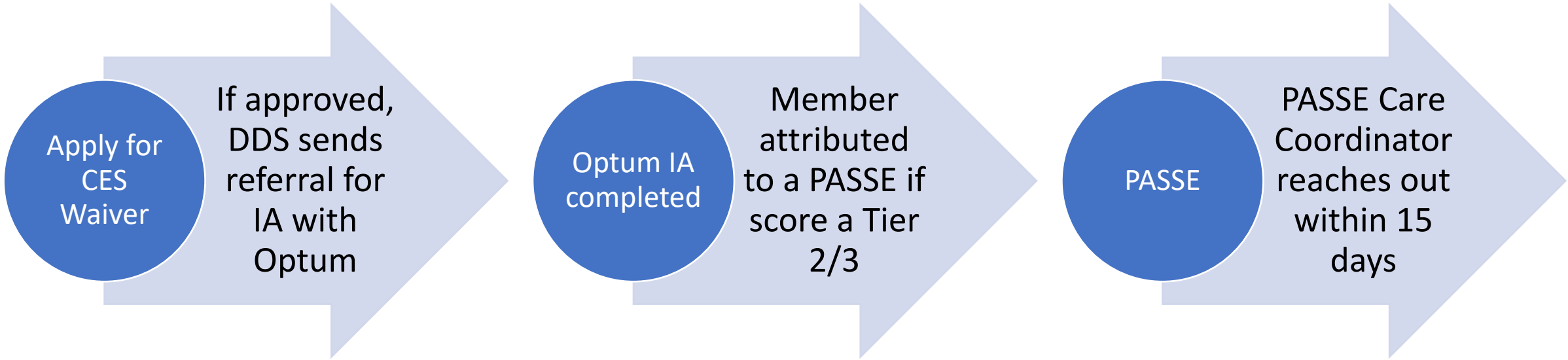
The DDS Psychology Team reviews the initial application packet and determines whether an applicant meets CES Waiver eligibility criteria. The initial application packet includes the following required documents: DHS 703, Areas of Need, Personal History, and psychological evaluations. Additional documents may be requested such as school records, therapy evaluations, psychiatric/mental health records, Social Security Administration documentation of disability and onset of disability, prior to age 22 Social History, etc.

# Areas of Need – Substantial Functional Limitations

A person must have substantial functional limitations in at least 3 of the following 6 major life areas:

1. Self Care
2. Understanding and Use of Language
3. Learning
4. Mobility
5. Self Direction
6. Capacity for Independent Living

# Enrollment in a PASSE



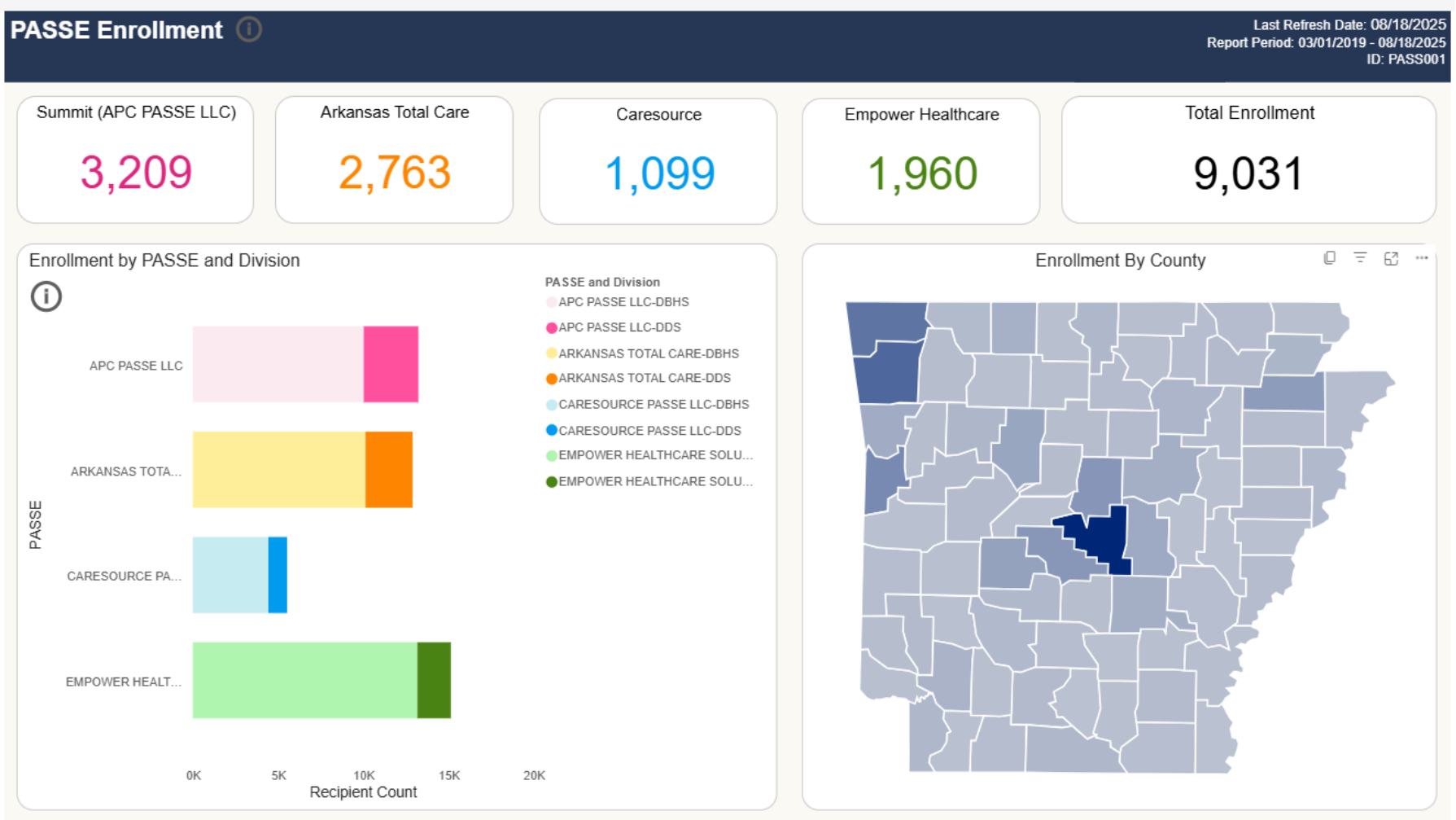

Independent Assessment (IA) and PASSE assignment dependent on member being eligible for Medicaid.

# Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE)

- Went live in March 2019
- Includes Arkansas Medicaid beneficiaries who are on the CES Waiver or Waitlist for CES Waiver, if already qualified for Medicaid, beneficiaries who live in a Private Intermediate Care Facilities, and/or beneficiaries who have a behavioral health diagnosis and need additional Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) services in addition to counseling
- Beneficiaries must be independently assessed by Optum to qualify for PASSE enrollment
- Four PASSEs are currently in Arkansas: **Arkansas Total Care, CareSource, Empower, and Summit**
- Provides access to HCBS services covered in the 1915i and 1915c Waivers
- 46,781 beneficiaries in the PASSE as of 8/18/25

# Provider-led Arkansas Shared Savings Entity (PASSE)

Highlighting PASSE members that are on the CES Waiver/Waitlist



# Division of Developmental Disabilities

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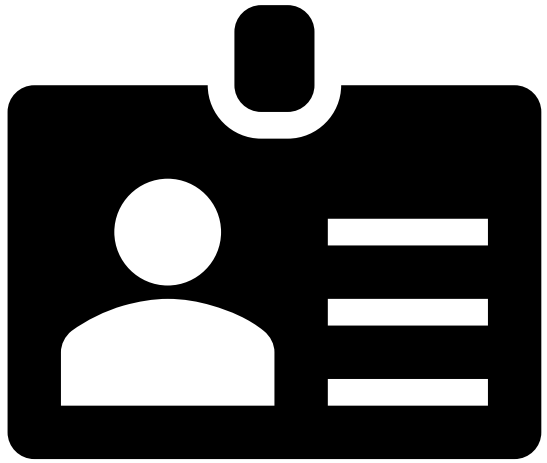

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# We Care. We Act. We Change Lives.

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# Appendix

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# Arkansas Code 20-48-101

"Intellectual and developmental disability" means a chronic disability of an individual that:

(A) Is attributable to a diagnosis of one (1) of the following:

- (i) Cerebral palsy, as established by the results of a medical examination by the individual's primary care provider or a licensed physician;
- (ii) Epilepsy, as established by the results of a neurological examination by the individual's primary care provider or a licensed physician;
- **(iii)** Spina bifida, as established by the results of a medical examination by the individual's primary care provider or a licensed physician;
- **(iv)** Down syndrome, as established by the results of a medical examination by the individual's primary care provider or a licensed physician;
- **(v)** Autism spectrum disorder, as established under § 20-77-124;
- **(vi)** Intellectual disability, as established by a full-scale standard intelligence score of seventy (70) or below, measured by a standard test designed for individual administration that is administered by a qualified professional; or any other condition that results in impairment of general intellectual functioning or adaptive behavior

# Arkansas Code 20-48-101

- Originates before the person attains twenty-two (22) years of age;
- Has continued or can be expected to continue indefinitely; and
- Constitutes a substantial impairment to the person's ability to function without appropriate support services, including without limitation:
  - (i) Daily living and social activities;
  - (ii) Medical services;
  - (iii) Job training; and
  - (iv) Employment

# Arkansas Code 20-77-124

**(1)** “Autism spectrum disorder” means a condition that is diagnosed by at least two (2) qualified professionals who both conclude that a child fully meets the diagnostic criteria under the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders

**(A)** “Qualified professional” means a professional who is educated and licensed in fields related to physical health, mental health, and child and adolescent physical and psychological development.

**(B)** “Qualified professional” only includes a licensed physician, licensed psychologist, or licensed speech-language pathologist.