



## **2019-20 Public Policy Targets**

What follows are our state public policy targets for 2019-20. ASNC issues two-year policy targets to match up with the two year-legislative and budget cycle. ASNC seeks input on policy targets from community members, looks at the legislative outlook, and decides which issues it will work on to create policy change.

### **Access to Services**

North Carolina should ensure a high-quality continuum of services and supports for individuals on the autism spectrum and their families across the lifespan, with a focus on community settings and ensuring that people with Autism Spectrum Disorder achieve a good quality of life. This includes access to developmentally appropriate services, supports, and interventions; health care; employment supports; and long-term care services.

- Ensure that the services system is accessible and better serves individual needs of people with autism through eliminating Innovations community-based waiver waiting lists, increasing state-funded IDD services for people without health-care coverage, and increasing access to developmentally appropriate diagnostic services and autism-specific supports for ages birth to 5.
- Ensure that adults across the autism spectrum have access to the training, services, and supports needed to be prepared for employment.
- Ensure that appropriate and adequate housing options exist for people on the autism spectrum.

### **Access to Education**

The education system should be accessible to and better serve people with autism and other developmental disabilities. Students should have options that suit the unique needs of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

- Increase per-student funding for special education and allocate special-education funding to address individual education needs.
- Ensure a fair threat-assessment process for students.
- Increase autism-related training and professional development for teachers and other school staff.
- Ensure that employment is an outcome of education services by improving IEPs and transition plans as well as increasing access to vocational training, job experience, and post-secondary opportunities that meet individuals' goals and aspirations.

## **Rights and Freedoms**

Our system of justice and individual rights should recognize the needs of individuals with autism and their families to ensure that people are safe, treated equitably, and able to exercise their personal freedoms.

- Create access to autism-related training (similar to that of law enforcement) for judges, magistrates, court systems, county departments of social services and others involved in determinations of guardianship, child protection, individual and parental rights, and other legal issues.
- Ensure that guardianship programs have adequate resources, and individuals and families have information about and access to alternatives to guardianship.
- Ensure that people on the spectrum have access to identification for purposes of voting.
- Implement evidence-based strategies to limit the use of seclusion and restraint across settings.

## **System Management and Managed Care**

North Carolina should develop policies and invest in services to ensure quality life outcomes for people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. Our public and private health-care system should support people in community settings; operate in a transparent fashion; be outcomes-focused; provide integrated access to physical health care and prevention; recognize the unique needs of people on the autism spectrum; and include autism self-advocates and families in the decision-making process.

- Encourage innovative service delivery, professional education, and funding that will improve the geographic distribution and quality of services across the state. This includes adequate funding for a well-trained and stable direct-care workforce.
- Ensure that the needs of people with autism are met in Medicaid as NC implements managed-care options.
- Focus the services system on person-centered outcomes.

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