

WELCOME

When a family hears that their child has autism, many questions come to their mind. One of the most prominent questions is, “What do I do now?” Other families have answered that question, but then a move puts them in a new state with unknown resources.

The South Carolina Autism Society is here to help. This brochure outlines different resources available in South Carolina, and links to get started applying.

You are also welcome to contact our Information & Resource Specialist at 803-750-6988.



GETTING CONNECTED

The South Carolina Autism Society has several great ways to keep informed of events, information, and all things autism in South Carolina.

- **Website:** www.scautism.org
- **Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/36939022248/>
- **SCAS Announcements Email Forum:** This group is for the distribution of events and announcements by the South Carolina Autism Society. To subscribe, send a blank email to scasannouncements-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
- **SC Autism Email Forum:** A discussion group for South Carolina parents and families whose lives are affected by autism. Share your joys, stories, challenges, and solutions. To subscribe, send a blank email to scautismforum-subscribe@yahoogroups.com



GETTING STARTED

MAIN OFFICE

806 12th Street, West Columbia, SC 29169

Phone: 803-750-6988

Email: scas@scautism.org

www.scautism.org

INTAKE & CASE MANAGEMENT

In order to begin Case Management and related services, individuals must meet eligibility through the South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs (DDSN). To start the eligibility process, please call the DDSN intake number: 1-800-289-7012.

Assuming you are eligible for Case Management, they will give you a list of providers to choose from. Your provider will be your main contact for getting services.

The South Carolina Autism Society provides Case Management services state-wide.

SUPPORT

Some of the YMCA's, in partnership with the SC Autism Society, offers monthly social/recreational programs for families affected by autism called Spectrum Sunday.

Visit our website at scautism.org for information on these and other events.

MEDICAID

Medicaid may be available for your loved one with a disability, assuming they meet certain criteria. There are two different kinds of Medicaid to consider. Traditional Medicaid is based on the family's income, and there is no disability requirement. Anyone whose family income falls below certain levels can apply for traditional Medicaid. For more information, visit: <https://www.scdhhs.gov/Getting-Started>.

For children under the age of 18, you can apply for Medicaid through the TEFRA (Katie Beckett) program. This program is for children with disabilities, and considers only the applicant's income. TEFRA Medicaid forms are available online at <https://www.scdhhs.gov/eligibility-groups/disabled-children>.

The application process can take several months. When you fill out the forms, be very detailed. You can attach additional sheets if needed. It also speeds up the process for TEFRA Medicaid if you can attach all the medical and educational records so they don't have to request them. Before mailing, make a copy of your whole packet as a backup. If your TEFRA application is denied, you can appeal.



SCHOOLS & PARENT MENTORS

If the child is school age, you will want to contact your school system to start the special education process. They will evaluate further to determine if the child meets the Educational Classification for autism. Note that the Educational Classification is different than a Medical Diagnosis. If they meet the Educational Classification for autism, they may be eligible for a variety of services through an Individualized Education Program (IEP), including speech/language therapy, OT, special classrooms, and full inclusion programs. If they do NOT meet the Educational Classification, they may still be eligible for a 504 Plan, which provides classroom and testing accommodations, as well as behavioral supports and interventions if needed.

Please contact your local School District's Child Find program, or talk to your child's school for more information.

The South Carolina Autism Society has trained Parent Mentors to help you navigate the educational system. Our Parent Mentors can help with IEP and 504 plans, handling behavioral issues, and other education-related issues. Contact our main office at 803-750-6988 to be connected with one of these staff members. This is a free service.

Visit our Website

www.scautism.org