



**AUTISM COVERAGE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT
PA 101 of 2012, Section 9**

Executive Summary:

Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley on behalf of Governor Rick Snyder signed into law on April 18, 2012 Public Act 101 of 2012 (SB 981 – Senate Majority Leader Richardville, sponsor) which created the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Act (MCL 550-1831-550.1841). Pursuant to this new law, this report has been prepared and issued electronically to the House and Senate appropriations committees and the State Budget Director to meet the April 1 reporting requirement. In addition, this report may also be found online under the following location:

- Consumer Section – Publications – Reports of the Department of Insurance and Financial Services website at: www.michigan.gov/difs

PA 101 of 2012 was also tied barred to SB 414 (PA 99 of 2012) and SB 415 (PA 100 of 2012), whereby private, commercial, for-profit, HMO, and non-profit health insurance carriers are required through these laws to offer an autism benefit to its members beginning October 15, 2012. The Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program, established by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA), also includes the Autism Coverage Fund. By Executive Order 2013-1, the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program was transferred from LARA to Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) on March 18, 2013. During this transition, LARA worked with DIFS to provide support and assistance.

In addition, self-insured plans that self-adopt an autism benefit may also, directly or through their third party administrator (TPA), file claims for employees who reside in Michigan and also receive a diagnosis and treatment for ASD by Michigan providers. This fund was created for the purpose of assisting health insurance carriers to offset their costs of offering an autism benefit for the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders (ASD).

Specifically, this report covers the 2013 calendar year from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013.

Reporting Requirements:

Section 9 requires the department to do the following:

The department shall submit an annual report to the state budget director and the senate and house of representative standing committees on appropriations not later than April 1 of each year that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:



- (a) The total number of applications received under this program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
- (b) The number of applications approved and the total amount of funding awarded under this program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
- (c) The amount of administrative costs used to administer the program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*

2013 Data:

The following items, from (a) – (c), contain the data and information as required under this Section 9 for reporting purposes.

- (a) The total number of applications received under this program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
 - 36 applications were received. One application may contain many claims. A claim represents a service provided. For calendar year 2013, 3,774 claims were included in the 36 applications.
- (b) The number of applications approved and total amount of funding awarded under this program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
 - 20 applications were approved for a total amount of \$501,347.25
- (c) The amount of administrative costs used to administer the program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
 - \$9,359.59 was spent to manage and administer the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program. This includes maintenance costs for the Share Point site to meet privacy and HIPAA requirements as a way to protect the claims data submitted by insurance carriers, TPAs, and self-insured companies.

Summary:

The department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) continues to work with and encourage insurance carriers, TPAs and self-insured companies to participate in the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program. As the provider network has grown there has been an increase in requests submitted. It is anticipated that the submissions will continue to increase in the future.

With only 138 Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) in the state of Michigan along with the provider network not fully established, it has been difficult to meet the demand for ASD related services. Through collaborative efforts with the Michigan Autism Council and insurance carriers, DIFS is working with interested stakeholders to help overcome challenges and/or barriers to implementing these new autism laws.