

# **Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program**

(Pursuant to MCL 550.1839 of PA 101 of 2012)

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### **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:

- The All About LARA section - Legislative Reports of the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website at: [www.michigan.gov/lara](http://www.michigan.gov/lara).

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. 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).

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.

By Executive Order 2013-1, the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program will be transferred from LARA to the new Department of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) sometime after March 18, 2013. During this transition, LARA will continue to work with DIFS in providing support and assistance.

Specifically, this report covers the 2012 calendar year from the effective date of the new autism benefit on October 15, 2012 to December 31, 2012.

## AUTISM COVERAGE FUND DATA

### **Reporting Requirement(s):**

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 representatives 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.*

### **2012 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.*
  - 1 application requesting \$243.97 for two paid claims to be reimbursed from the fund was received on December 4, 2012.
- (b) The number of applications approved and the total amount of funding awarded under this program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
  - 1 application was approved and the full payment request in the amount of \$243.97 was issued on December 14, 2012.
- (c) The amount of administrative costs used to administer the program in the immediately preceding calendar year.*
  - \$2,882.64 was spent to manage and administer the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program from October 15, 2012 to December 31, 2012. This also includes set-up costs with the creation of a secure 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 Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) continues to work with and encourage insurance carriers, TPAs and self-insured companies to participate in the Autism Coverage Reimbursement Program. It is anticipated that as the provider network is built up there will be more activity and requests submitted to Autism Coverage Fund. In the other states that passed similar autism benefit laws, Michigan being the only state to create a fund, it has taken on average 2-3 years to build up the provider network.

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, Office of Financial Insurance Regulation (OFIR), and insurance carriers, LARA is working with interested stakeholders to help overcome challenges and/or barriers to implementing these new autism laws.