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# AUTISM SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Improving the Lives of all Affected by Autism.

**Research and Services: Impacting Individuals Today**

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# Services Roadmap

- Population Dramatically Increasing
- Complex Disorder: Multifaceted and Multi-Agency Approach Needed
- Service Delivery System Challenging to Negotiate
- Lifespan Concerns
- Economic and Social Crisis
- Many evidence-based methods only available to those with funding or access to university centers.



# Services Roadmap

- Family and Professional Partnerships;
- Early and Continuous Developmental and Medical Screenings;
- Availability of all Needed Health, Education, and Social Services;
- Organization of Community-Based Services for Easy Use;
- Effective Youth Transition to Adult Services, Work, and Independence; and
- Access to Adequate Public/Private Insurance or Other Financing Mechanisms.



## Current Research Challenges

- Research to Practice
- Broad Impact: Proven Practices Available to All



# Recommendations: Research Can Address Services

- Studies can be based on meeting performance and other criteria, and not on a traditional single subject research design.
- We know evidence-based practices to implement, but what are the systemic, cost and other issues that promote/restrict their implementation.
- Professionals will typically use tools already in their repertoire and/or those that are simplest to implement. How do we balance level of fidelity with feasibility for implementation?



# Recommendations: Research Can Address Policy

- Research can and should drive policy decisions surrounding insurance, employment, Medicaid Waivers, etc.
- What are the needs of families and individuals, including the silent majority?
- What are models of service delivery that have been effective and what outcomes have they achieved?
- What are the contexts and practices and policies that create systems that can accommodate and support individuals?



**Research should lead to real change in the quality of life of families and individuals on the autism spectrum.**



# Generalization