



Services Research for Autism Spectrum Disorder Across the Lifespan

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National Institute
of Mental Health

RFAs in ASD Services Research

- Research on Early Identification and Linkage to Services for ASD
- Pilot Studies on Services for Transition-Age Youth
- Pilot Studies on Services for Adults with ASD



Intent to commit \$10,000,000 in FY 2014

Purpose of Announcements

“... research that develops and tests the effectiveness of service system interventions to improve functional and health outcomes for people with autism spectrum disorder at three key life stages: early childhood, transition from youth to adulthood, and adulthood.”

NIMH Response to IACC Strategic Plan Update

Question 1: When Should I Be Concerned?

Question 5: Where Can I Turn For Services?

Question 6: What Does the Future Hold, Particularly for Adults?



Early Identification & Linkage to Services Announcement

- Develop an intervention that coordinates ASD screening, evaluation and linkage to treatment and services within the first two years of life
- Test feasibility and effectiveness of the intervention in engaging young children in care
- Demonstrate the intervention's implementability and generalizability to settings across the US
- Reduce disparities in outcomes for underserved populations

Services for Transition-Age Youth Announcement

- Develop service strategies to assist youth and families in transition to adult functioning and services without lapses in services and supports
- Enhance functioning in: post-secondary education or training; employment; social, familial, and other settings, etc.
- Maintain or improve health, safety, and quality of life and reduce or maintain reduction in ASD-related symptoms
- Reduce disparities in outcomes for underserved populations

Services for Adults Announcement

- Develop service strategies that optimize the independence and functioning of adults with ASD
- Targeted areas include: employment or training; community housing and safety; social relationships; physical and mental health, etc.
- Improve behavioral, functional and health outcomes
- Reduce disparities in outcomes for underserved populations

Time Line

- Issued: May 30, 2013
- Receipt: November 1, 2013 (extended due to furlough)
- Review: March 14, 2014

Results to Date: 36 Applications Received

- Children = 12
- Transition-Age = 15
- Adults = 9

Next Steps for Funding Decisions

- Review & Response to Summary Statements - Current
- Discussions Internal to NIMH - Current
- Discussion with NIMH Advisory Council – May 2014 ★
- Earliest Start Date – July 2014