Where Do I Start?

The agencies below can help you find services in your area:

DMH - Division of Developmental Disabilities
- Regional Offices
The place to start for services offered by the state for individuals with developmental disabilities. The Regional Offices determine eligibility for Division services.
dmh.mo.gov/dd/facilities

First Steps (Birth - 3 years)
Assists families of children with a developmental delay or disability for birth to 3 years by providing coordinated supports, resources, and early intervention services. dese.mo.gov/special-education/first-steps
866.583.2392 (toll-free)

School Districts (3 years and older)
Helps children age 3 or older with a developmental delay or disability. If your child is 3 years or older you should contact your local school district for help and assistance.
dese.mo.gov/school-directory
573.751.4212

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Missouri Autism Centers

MU Thompson Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders
205 Portland St.
Columbia, MO 65211
thompsoncenter.missouri.edu
888.720.0015 (toll-free) or 573.884.6052

Knights of Columbus Developmental Center at SSM Cardinal Glennon Children’s Medical Center
1465 S. Grand Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63104
cardinalglennon.com
(search for developmental center)
314.577.5609

Children’s Mercy Hospitals & Clinics
Developmental & Behavioral Sciences
2401 Gillham Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64111
childrens-mercy.org
(search for developmental sciences)
866.512.2168 (toll-free) or 816.234.3674

Southeast Missouri State University Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment
611 N. Fountain St.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
sumo.edu/autismcenter
573.986.4983

Washington University School of Medicine
Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Center
St. Louis, MO
wuchild.wustl.edu
314.286.1700 (Scheduling)

Help for You and Your Child with Autism

The Rapid Response Collaborative is a cooperative effort among state and local agencies to improve access to care for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families.

Website Resources

First 100 Days Tool Kit to assist families in getting the critical information they need in the first 100 days after a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder.
autismspeaks.org (search for first 100 days kit)
888.AUTISM2 (toll-free)

The Office of Autism Services
Helps agencies in Missouri develop programs for children and adults with autism. Provides information about services that help individuals with autism and their families.
dmh.mo.gov/dd/autism
800.207.9329 (toll-free)

Navigating Autism Services:
A Community Guide for Missouri
Provides information about autism, resources, and services available to families in Missouri.
dmh.mo.gov/docs/dd/navigationguide.pdf
(click on "Navigating Autism Services" to download)

Interactive Autism Network (IAN)
The most recent information on topics such as current therapies and treatments, how parents can tell which therapies are working the best, and the impact of autism on the family. Parents may also participate in online research.
www.ianproject.org

Missouri Best Practice Guidelines for Screening, Diagnosis, and Assessment
Inform parents about best practice guidelines for ASD screening, diagnosis, and assessment.
autismsguidelines.dmhn.mo.gov
(click on the “for families” tab)

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Early Education & Child Care

Parents as Teachers
Provides information, support, and encouragement to parents of young children.
parentsasteachers.org | 314.432.4330 or contact your local school district.

United 4 Children
Helps parents find child care and provides education to child care providers.
united4children.org | click on Parent/ Family Support 800.467.2322 (toll-free)

Head Start/Early Head Start
Offers child development programs for children birth to age 5, meheadstart.org (search for head start map) 573.884.5078

Special Education Advocacy & Services

Missouri Parents Act (MPACT)
Information and training for parents on their child’s educational services.
mpact.org 800.743.7634 (toll-free)

Missouri Protection & Advocacy Services
Legal services for families.
moadvocacy.org 800.592.8667 (toll-free)

Legal Services of Missouri
Legal services for income eligible persons including education plans.
816.474.6750

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
314.534.4200 | 800.844.0514 (toll-free)

Legal Services of Southern Missouri
417.881.0535 | 800.444.4862 (toll-free)

Mid-Missouri Legal Services
573.442.0116 | 800.568.4931 (toll-free)

Parent Supports
Missouri Autism Support Groups

Missouri Families for Effective Autism Treatment (MO-FEAT)
Provides education and support for families. Also provides a resource directory.
mofeat.org | 877.225.8988 (toll-free)

Missouri Family-to-Family (MOF2F)
Is a free statewide program that provides information and referral services. Connects parents to other parents who understand what it is like to be there, and offers leadership development opportunities.
mofamilytofamily.org or sharingourstrengths.com 800.444.0821 (toll-free)

ParentLink
Provides information about parenting, child development, and services in your area.
parentlink.missouri.edu 800.552.8522 (toll-free, English) 888.460.0008 (toll-free, Spanish)

Mental Health Services

For a list of mental health providers see: dmh.mo.gov/cps/org/adminagents

Financial Resources

Private Health Insurance
You may qualify for services under your health insurance policy.
insurance.mo.gov/consumers/autismFAQ 800.726.7380 (toll-free)

Department of Social Services, Family Support Division
If you do not have health insurance, you may qualify for Medicaid (MO HealthNet). You can apply for services at your local Family Support Division office in your county.
dss.mo.gov/fsa/office/index
Or complete an application at: dss.mo.gov/mhks/appl

Safety

Autism Safety Project
An online tool kit for first responders, individuals with autism, and families that provides information and strategies to promote safety in emergency situations.
autism safet yproject.org

Other Services That May Help Your Family

Senate Bill 40 Boards (SB 40)
Boards that provide special county tax dollars to fund programs and services for people with developmental disabilities who live in their counties. Check this website to determine if there is a SB 40 Board in your county,
macdss.org/county-board/

Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program
Offers service coordination and funding for medically necessary services for children and youth with complex physical health care needs and their families. Medical and financial eligibility guidelines must be met to receive funded services. In addition, SIHCN has a Family Partnership program to support families of children and youth with special health care needs.
dss.mo.gov/living/families/shcn/ 1.800.451.0669 (toll-free) 1.873.791.8248

Missouri Assistive Technology
Loans assistive technology devices to persons with a disability.
si.ago.mo.gov 800.647.8557 (toll-free)

Missouri Centers for Independent Living
Provide services to persons with disabilities to enable them to remain in their own home and community.
molc.org/CIL 877.222.8963 (toll-free)