

Autism Society of Texas

300 E. Highland Mall Blvd, Ste 205,
Austin, TX 78752



Children's Autism Program (CAP)

[The Children's Autism Program \(CAP\)](#) is an extremely successful, cost-effective program that provides focused Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapies to children with a documented autism diagnosis between the ages of 3-15 who otherwise would not have access to this life-changing therapy. Focused ABA treatment is targeted to address a few specific outcomes instead of all developmental needs of the child, and is particularly useful when children have challenging behaviors, and to support them in building social and adaptive skills.

Since the therapist targets specifically defined behaviors, the treatment period for these focused ABA services is shorter and time limited in contrast to the more intensive (traditional) ABA therapy programs. For example, CAP is limited to 180 hours within a 12-month period with a maximum of 720 hours during the child's lifetime. Parent training is also a required part of the service and participation must be maintained at 85 percent of the scheduled visits. Services may be provided in the home, in a clinic or in other settings in the community.

While families of [all income levels may be eligible](#), the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) will determine a family's ability to contribute to a child's autism services based on an income-dependent sliding scale fee schedule (family cost-share). For the 2020 - 2021 biennial budget, HHSC estimated that CAP would serve 1,150 children with autism each year for an annual cost of approximately \$7 million.

No program helps improve the quality of life for children with autism in the way that CAP does. This essential program helps those families who fall in the coverage gap, those who do not qualify for Medicaid, or whose self-funded insurance plans do not provide ABA therapies. CAP is truly a payer-of-last-resort for over a thousand Texas families. Maintaining this unique program is crucial to ensuring that no child with autism falls through the cracks and misses out on effective interventions and supports to improve outcomes and open up opportunities.

The Autism Society of Texas is dedicated to ensuring that families know that this program may be available to help their children, and continues to support keeping this program independent from other ABA programs while maintaining or increasing funding to serve more children.

Additional Resources:

Children's Autism Program Standards - 2018	Children's Autism Program Fact Sheet
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