



Office of Developmental Programs'(ODP) December 2025 Training and Events Calendar

[After Hours with Policy from the Office of Developmental Programs \(ODP\): Waiver 101: What is a Waiver, and What Does it Do?](#)

Date: 12/4/2025

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Description: The Office of Developmental Programs' (ODP) invites individuals with intellectual disabilities and/or autism (ID/A) and their families to join in a virtual discussion with members of the Division of Policy and Program Innovation. These sessions are informal, meaning the conversation will not be recorded, and rules will be set before the session starts to ensure everyone feels comfortable and safe to provide questions and comments. The session will be held through Microsoft Teams.

Please note: This event is being held only for individuals and family members; this is not an event for someone who is only a professional.

What Will Be Covered? ODP staff will provide an overview of the ID/A Centers for Medicaid and Medicare (CMS) waivers available in Pennsylvania. This session will consist of a brief history of ID/A services in PA, what ODP is, and how the "waivers" came to exist and their purpose. The session will also include time to

explore the Department of Human Services (DHS) and ODP's websites for this information.

Audience: Individuals and Families

Part 1: Virtual Autism Training Opportunity for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) and Front-Line Supervisors (FLSs)

Date: 12/10/2025

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Description: Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Overview and Practical Application
(Note: This training satisfies the basic autism training requirement for Residential Performance Based Contracting. Please see more details below on Continuing Education Credits. This training is an approved alternative to the SPeCTRUM offered on MyODP.)

To receive a training certificate, attendees must attend both Part 1 and Part 2 virtual sessions.

Over the years the prevalence of autism has increased, Pennsylvania's service delivery system for individuals with autism has expanded, and best practices to provide quality support have emerged. To support the individual needs of each person with autism across the lifespan, an understanding of core characteristics must be established. It is also important to learn how the individual's presentation of autism may change across settings and situations. This training will provide attendees with an in-depth presentation on core characteristics of autism and the impact of the characteristics on daily life, routines, and activities. A review of common terms and basic principles used to change behavior, teach new skills, and

develop practical applications of best practices will be included. An opportunity for discussion and engagement will occur throughout the training in the virtual setting.

Audience: Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), Front Line Supervisors (FLS), and Program Managers supporting individuals with autism in residential and other home and community-based settings. Professionals supporting individuals in the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW), Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP), the Consolidated, Person/Family- Directed Support (P/FDS), and Community Living waivers are encouraged to attend.

Part 2: Virtual Autism Training Opportunity for DSPs and FLSs

Date: 12/11/2025

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Description: Autism Spectrum Disorders: An Overview and Practical Application (Note: This training satisfies the basic autism training requirement for Residential Performance Based Contracting. Please see more details below on Continuing Education Credits. This training is an approved alternative to the SPeCTRUM offered on MyODP.)

To receive a training certificate, attendees must attend both Part 1 and Part 2 virtual sessions.

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attendees with an in-depth presentation on core characteristics of autism and the impact of the characteristics on daily life, routines, and activities. A review of common terms and basic principles used to change behavior, teach new skills, and develop practical applications of best practices will be included. An opportunity for discussion and engagement will occur throughout the training in the virtual setting.

Audience: Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), Front Line Supervisors (FLSs), and Program Managers supporting individuals with autism in residential and other home and community-based settings. Professionals supporting individuals in the Adult Autism Waiver (AAW), Adult Community Autism Program (ACAP), Consolidated, Person/Family- Directed Support Waiver (P/FDS), and Community Living waivers are encouraged to attend.

Bridging the Gap From Classroom to Community: Transition Resources Related to Communication

Date: 12/17/2025

Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Description: The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) has shared [a new resource](#), “Bridging the Gap from Classroom to Community: Transition Resources Related to Communication.” In ODP, 61% of people aged from one to 21 years of age who do not communicate with spoken words have a system for communication. However, for adults aged 22 and older, only 27-30% have a system in place. This training will provide tips on how to ensure access to effective communication during transition out of school.

Audience: All Interested Stakeholders