State Public Health Coordinating Center for Autism

An Overview
Who is AMCHP?

The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs is a national resource, partner and advocate for state public health leaders and others working to improve the health of women, children, youth and families, including those with special health care needs.
Who are our members?

Our members come from the highest levels of state government and include directors of maternal and child health programs, directors of programs for children with special health care needs, and families.
How do we serve our members?

AMCHP build successful programs by

• Communicating information
• Disseminating best practices
• Advocating on their behalf in Washington
• Providing technical assistance
• Convening leaders to share experiences and ideas
• Forging partnerships
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Primary Purpose

Increase the capacity of state Title V agencies to enhance services and supports to children, youth and families with ASD and other developmental disabilities
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Key Activities

• Create virtual State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC)
• Facilitate communication between State Demonstration Grantees
• Provide technical assistance to grantees and other public health agencies
• Collect Best Practices on autism and developmental disability service integration
Drawing on the experiences and successes of states and partner organizations, the State Public Health Autism Resource Center (SPHARC) is a comprehensive resource center for state Title V agencies and others interested in improving systems for children, youth and families with Autism Spectrum Disorders and developmental disabilities. Visit SPHARC for state snapshots, promising practices, and other resources to support states as they develop and implement systems to improve the health and well-being of infants, children, and adolescents with autism and other special health care needs.

State Spotlight

Alaska

Alaska is the largest and most rural of the six demonstration grants. The state faces significant geographical and financial challenges in delivering services to all Alaskan children and youth with autism and other special health care needs. SPHARC assists Alaska in increasing state capacity to develop, implement, and evaluate systems for children, youth, and families with autism.

Cultural Competency

States are currently working hard to develop culturally competent programs that raise awareness about ASD and engage newly diagnosed families from culturally, linguistically, and geographically diverse communities. Populations of specific concern to the State Demonstration Grantees include Hispanic, Native American, and rural families. Please see the materials below to learn more about current resources on this topic, an expanded definition of cultural competence, and what states are doing to advance culturally competent programs.

Partners and Resources

- National Center for Cultural Competence
- Spanish and Other Non-English
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Upcoming Activities in Year 2

- Develop a public health policy framework
- Foster state peer to peer mentoring
- An experts blog!
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Common Technical Assistance Needs

• Standards for care coordination
• Materials and strategies for rural/hard to reach populations
• Materials for Hispanic families
• Engagement of advisory groups
• Strategies around training providers
• Best practices around reimbursement
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