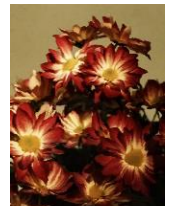




Pennsylvania's leading source  
of autism-related resources  
and information.  
**877-231-4244**



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## Updated Pennsylvania Autism Census –Now Available!

ASERT is excited to announce the release of the 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update. The 2009 Pennsylvania Autism Census identified almost 20,000 individuals with autism receiving services across Pennsylvania. The 2014 Pennsylvania Autism Census Update now estimates that there are over 55,000 children and adults with autism receiving services, nearly triple the number initially identified. The 2014 PA Autism Census Update utilized additional sources of data across systems to help document where individuals with autism across the lifespan and across Pennsylvania are receiving services. The 2014 PA Autism Census Update is among the first efforts in the US to document the cross-system needs of individuals with autism. Visit [www.PAautism.org/census](http://www.PAautism.org/census) to review the full report and find a clickable map by county. Stay tuned for more information in an ASERT special edition newsletter coming soon.

### NEW at PAautism.org: Improved Search Features

Now, it is even easier to find resources, events, training, and news at PAautism.org. Whether you're looking for a support group meeting in your area, an informational handout about a particular topic, or something fun for your family to do during the weekend, the improved search features can help you easily find what you need. Use the sidebars on any search page to sort search results by type, topic, age group, location, and more. Visit [www.PAautism.org](http://www.PAautism.org) today to give it a try!

### Feedback Requested: Training Topics

One of the gaps that ASERT identified in the current autism service system in Pennsylvania is widespread access to training and information for adults with autism and their family members. To help fill this gap, ASERT and the Bureau of Autism Services are working to develop future training opportunities for individuals with autism and the people and providers who support them. If you are an individual with autism or a spouse, sibling, parent, roommate, significant other, or friend to someone with autism, please [provide your feedback here!](#)

### Now Available! New training videos from BAS

The Bureau of Autism Services, PA Department of Public Welfare announces the availability of two new training videos:

**BAS Adult Programs Overview** – provides a brief explanation of the two BAS Adult Autism Programs

**Adult Autism Waiver Process** – provides information about how enrolling in the Adult Autism Waiver works

[Click here](#) to access these videos on PAautism.org.

**877-231-4244** (M-F · 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)  
PAautism.org · info@PAautism.org



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## Events and Trainings

\*Please visit the events and trainings sections at [www.PAautism.org](http://www.PAautism.org) for details.

### Where to find ASERT

- 11/6....[Postsecondary Resource Expo](#), Doylestown
- 11/8...[Creating Integrated Health Care for People with Autism Spectrum Disorder](#), Philadelphia
- 11/10,11,12.... [Childhood Education Summit](#), State College
- 11/12&13... PAR [Solutions Conference](#) 2014, Harrisburg
- 12/2....[Sensory Friendly Evenings](#) at The Hershey Story, Hershey

### Other Events

- 11/13...From Clinic to the Classroom: [Fragile X Syndrome](#), Milton
- 11/13..[Transition Focus Group](#), Wexford
- 11/14..[FREE Training for Families of Children in Early Intervention](#), Pittsburgh
- 11/15..[iPad Trainings](#) for Parents and Professionals, Lancaster
- 11/18...Your Dependent with Special Needs—[Making His or Her Future More Secure](#), Newtown Square
- 11/19....Children with Autism: Who's Eligible, [How to Get ABA Services?](#), Philadelphia
- 11/25...AERI Adult Social Group—[Trivia and Game Show Day](#), Ebsenburg
- 12/4...[Medicare/Medicaid Basics](#) for Mental Health Professionals, Somerset

## Transition to Employment

By Allen Gregory, Director of Employment Services, WPIC; ASERT Employment Project

*Allen Gregory offers tips on the transition to employment for individuals with autism in this brief excerpt. View the [full article](#) on PAautism.org.*

The question of when to begin thinking about employment can be answered in two ways. The first response is to begin at age 16, when it becomes a legal requirement for Transition Planning to be in effect in the student's IEP. This requirement is the result of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA 04), which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 3, 2004 and became effective July 1, 2005. The second perspective is to begin during childhood, asking, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Both are correct approaches, but as the old adage goes, "How do you get into Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice."

Getting started and focusing energy and attention to the task are the keys. And certainly a good starting point is having some idea of where interests, talents, and skills reside.

Getting started doesn't mean waiting for the education system to intervene. Families can begin by doing activities on their own. For example, encouraging summer jobs; fostering secondary education goals when appropriate; engaging an individual in activities where they are required to socialize and make friends; and providing activities fostering responsibilities as well as activities where they are required to follow directions.

Increasing attention on helping adults with disabilities find jobs is generating more and more focus on the topic. In fact, several models for helping individuals with disabilities currently exist. Whatever approach you use, the ideal outcomes will lead to meaningful job creation and fulfillment.

*For more ideas about what to think about as you or a loved one plan for future employment, contact the ASERT Statewide Resource Center at 877-231-4244.*

Please feel free to distribute our newsletter as you like. We would be happy to add you to our emailing list. If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter and other updates from ASERT by email, please visit [www.PAautism.org](http://www.PAautism.org) or call 877-231-4244 with the following information: Name, email address, and whether you are an individual with autism, parent/caregiver, sibling/other family member, or professional.