

## ABSTRACT

The prevalence of autism spectrum disorders is increasing and impacting health care delivery and financing systems nationally and within Alaska. Early intensive intervention provided for children with autism spectrum disorders has been found to reduce the lifetime cost of care and the need for special education services. This project analyzes policies related to providing time-limited interventions for young children with autism in Alaska. The study includes an investigation of the advantages and disadvantages of offering services through various funding mechanisms. Recommendations, in order of priority, are to apply for a Medicaid 1915(c) Waiver for autism, or if Alaska chooses to submit an 1115a demonstration waiver, include intensive autism services as part of that waiver application, draft a Medicaid State Plan Amendment as allowed under the Deficit Reduction Act, and seek legislation to enact state mandated insurance benefits.