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UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Bridging the Gap: Outlining Systems of Care for Kids with Developmental Differences, An Emergency Department Resource

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This project was supported, in part, by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) under the Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) Grant T73MC11044 and by the Administration on for Community Living under the University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCDEDD) Grant 90DDUC0106 of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS or the U.S. Government.



Scan me to learn more
about these resources

The goal of this project was to create a *resource pamphlet* & a *Smart Phrase* in Epic outlining how to navigate systems of care and providing **actionable next steps** for caregivers of children with developmental differences presenting to the Emergency Department.



Developmental Differences Resources

We serve children and adolescents with a wide variety of developmental needs. We strive to be a strong and consistent voice for the improvement of children's services in Colorado and we are not alone. We have compiled this list of helpful resources within our walls and beyond.

Resources Timeline

- Ages 0 to 3**
 - ★ Early Intervention Services
- Ages 3 to 5**
 - ★ Child Find Evaluation (Getting ready for school)
- Any Age**
 - ★ Comprehensive Evaluation
 - ★ Therapy Services
 - Case Management Agency (CMA)
 - Social Skills Groups
 - ★ Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- Pediatric to Adult Transition Age**
 - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
 - Guardianship
 - Supported Decision Making
 - Division of Vocational Rehab (DVR)

★ These resources are available without an official diagnosis.

Case Management Agency Support

Case Management Agencies (CMA) manage several programs to support children and adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities (IDDs), including:

- **Early Intervention** (ages 0 to 3)
- **Medicaid Waivers**
- **Family Support Service Program**

Case management agencies are found through your county. To find more information about the programs provided by the case management agency and to find which organization works for your county, visit: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/case-management-agency-directory>

Before age 5, children with developmental delays can access services without an official diagnosis. Once they turn 5, they need a medical diagnosis and adaptive testing to qualify for CMA support.

Medicaid Buy-in Program

The **Medicaid Buy-in Program** lets families of a child who has a documented disability 'buy into' Colorado Medicaid for the child by paying a monthly premium (fee).

Medicaid offers better coverage for speech therapy (SLP), occupational therapy (OT), and behavioral therapy than private insurance in most cases.

Not all families will qualify for this program, because it depends how much money you make and how many people live at home. For income guidelines, visit: <https://hcpf.colorado.gov/health-first-colorado-buy-in-programs>.

If your income is below the highest amount listed for a household of your size, you can call our financial counseling department to make an appointment for help with the application. Their phone number is 720-777-7001.

Children's Hospital Colorado Resources

Developmental Pediatrics
720-777-6630

- Provides evaluation & treatment services for Autism and/or developmental disorders in an outpatient setting

Neuropsychiatric Special Care Unit
720-777-6200

- Provides inpatient and intensive outpatient day treatment for children 3-17 years old who have Autism and/or developmental disorders

Pediatric Mental Health Institute
720-777-6200

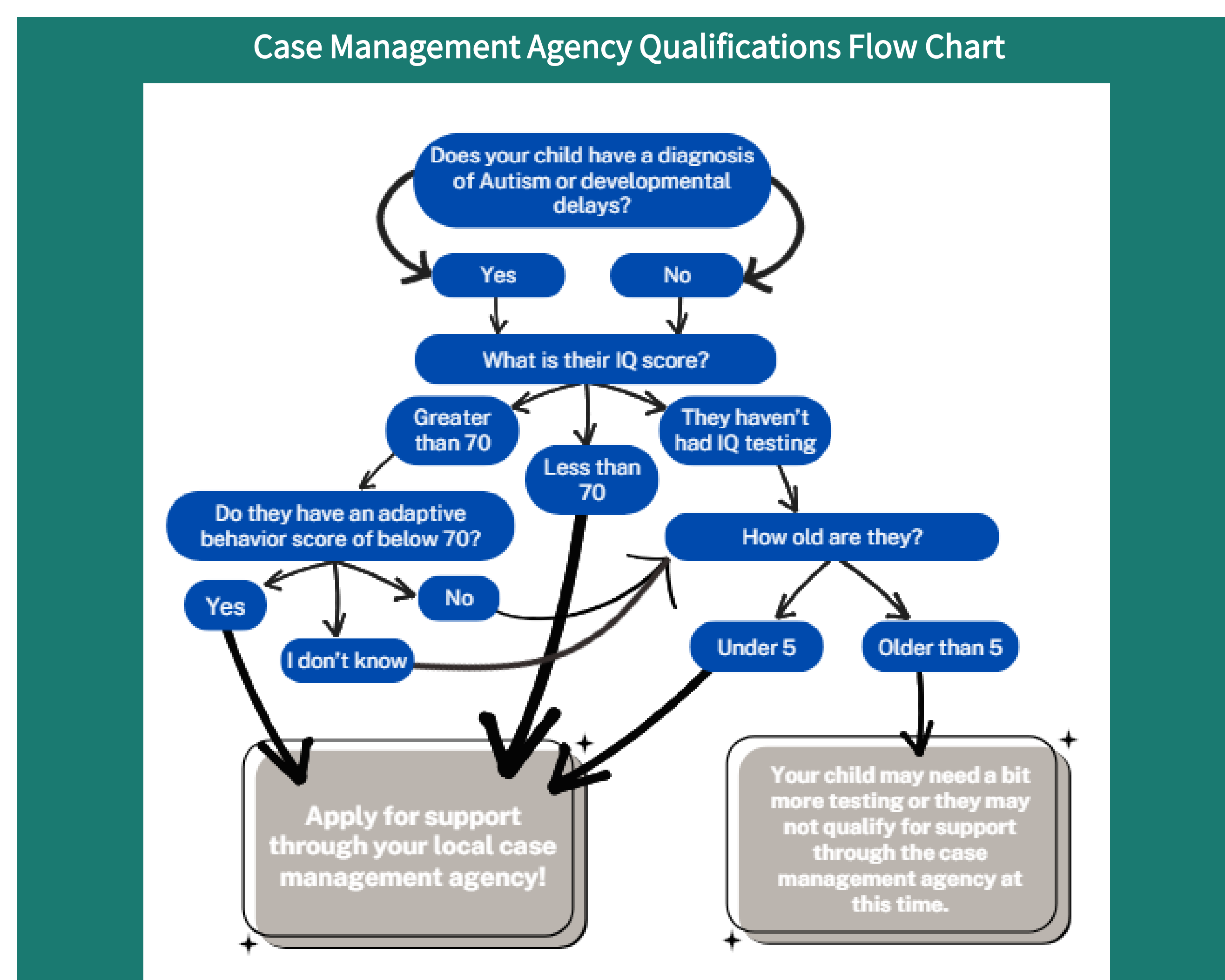
- Provides individual and family counseling in an outpatient office setting

Rehabilitation Therapy
720-777-2806

- Provides speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy services as well as social skills groups for a variety of ages

Safety Store
720-777-3185

- Offers a variety of products to help keep children safe and meet their developmental needs, along with safety experts available to assist you



Project Specifics

Purpose

- Systems of care for kids with developmental differences are incredibly complex, difficult to understand, and even more difficult to access
- My dual roles at Children's Hospital Colorado, both as a social work intern in Developmental Pediatrics and as an employee in the Mental Health Emergency Department, allowed me to identify a significant gap in knowledge across departments, highlighting the need for this resource

Method

1. Asked providers and parents with lived experience questions about their history with Emergency Department visits for their child
2. Worked with resources available in Developmental Pediatrics to create a list of actionable next steps from the ED setting and put them into a Smart Phrase
3. Received feedback from ED providers and edited the pamphlet and Smart Phrase accordingly for clarity

Accessibility

- Health Literacy: Reviewed and edited resource for clarity and accessibility across reading comprehension levels
- Translation: Reviewed content and created a Spanish version of both Smart Phrase and Resource Pamphlet
- Mental Health ED: Hard copies available to ensure access to resources with or without internet connection or electronic devices

Key Points

Early Intervention Services (EI)
Early intervention works with infants & young children up until their third birthday, providing free in-home therapies including speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and more, to those who qualify. This program is managed by your county's case management agency (CMA).

Medicaid Waivers
Medicaid waivers are an extra resource for children and adults with IDD to make sure they get the support they need. If approved, the child can qualify for Medicaid along with funding for interventions for the safety & support of the child's developmental needs. The waivers for kids with developmental differences include the CES Waiver and the CHCBS Waiver.

Family Support Services Program (FSSP)
A child that qualifies for support through the CMA has access to some government funding through the Family Support Services Program (FSSP). The amount of funding varies depending on the amount the CMA receives as part of the State budget each year, as well as the identified needs of the family. This funding can be used on things to support your child's development, like swimming lessons, therapy copays, or other adaptive equipment your child needs.

Child Find Evaluation
The Child Find process focuses on meeting the child's educational needs. The purpose is to determine if there is an educational disability that requires special education and related services for the child to make progress in preschool. Child Find is provided at no cost to families.

Community Resources

- **Family Voices:** <https://www.familyvoicesco.org>
 - o Family Voices is a national family-led organization of families and friends of children and youth with special health care needs (CYSHCN) and disabilities. They can help with finding services, understanding eligibility for government programs, connecting with support for yourself and your child, finding culturally and linguistically appropriate services, and more.
- **El Grupo Vida:** <https://elgrupovida.org/en/home/>
 - o El Grupo VIDA is a network of Hispanic/Latino parents formed to provide mutual support for people with disabilities or special needs, their parents, family, and guardians. They can help with educational advocacy, transition support, parent support groups, resource navigation, and more.
- **The Arc Educational Advocates:** <https://thearcofco.org/about/>
 - o The Arc of Colorado provides system advocacy, public awareness, community education, and support for self-advocacy organizations across the state for persons with I/DD and their families. They can help with educational advocacy and more for individuals with an IQ or adaptive behavior score below 70.
- **PEAK Parent Center:** <https://www.peakparent.org/>
 - o PEAK Parent Center helps families who have children with disabilities from birth through age 26. PEAK also assists youth and self-advocates with disabilities who are advocating for themselves. They can provide support around understanding laws that protect their rights, learning advocacy & leadership skills, identifying available community resources, and providing support even if you aren't sure where to start.
- **Autism Community Store:** <https://autismcommunitystore.com/>
 - o The goal at the Autism Community Store is to simplify the journey into autism for parents and caregivers by offering products and events that meet the unique needs of the community.

Medicaid Buy-in Program Income Chart

| Family Size | 0%-133% FPL | 134%-185% FPL | 186%-250% FPL | 251%-300% FPL | FPL Bracket | Monthly Premium |
|-------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | \$0 - \$1,735 | \$1,736 - \$2,413 | \$2,414 - \$3,261 | \$3,262 - \$3,913 | 0%-133% | \$0 |
| 2 | \$0 - \$2,345 | \$2,346 - \$3,261 | \$3,262 - \$4,407 | \$4,408 - \$5,288 | 134%-185% | \$70 |
| 3 | \$0 - \$2,954 | \$2,955 - \$4,109 | \$4,110 - \$5,553 | \$5,554 - \$6,663 | 186%-250% | \$90 |
| 4 | \$0 - \$3,564 | \$3,565 - \$4,957 | \$4,958 - \$6,698 | \$6,699 - \$8,038 | 251%-300% | \$120 |
| 5 | \$0 - \$4,173 | \$4,174 - \$5,805 | \$5,806 - \$7,844 | \$7,845 - \$9,413 | | |
| 6 | \$0 - \$4,783 | \$4,784 - \$6,653 | \$6,654 - \$8,990 | \$8,991 - \$10,788 | | |
| 7 | \$0 - \$5,393 | \$5,394 - \$7,501 | \$7,502 - \$10,136 | \$10,137 - \$12,163 | | |
| 8 | \$0 - \$6,002 | \$6,003 - \$8,349 | \$8,350 - \$11,282 | \$11,283 - \$13,538 | | |

*FPL stands for Federal Poverty Level. It's a measure of income issued every year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to determine who qualifies for certain government programs and benefits.