

CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES
Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities
Office of Autism
(New Administrative Regulation)

908 KAR 6:005. Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders research and services grant program.

RELATES TO: KRS 194A.625

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 194A.624, KRS 194A.625

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 194A.624(9)(a) requires the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders to promulgate administrative regulations to establish a competitive, open grant program to provide funding to specific entities who offer research funding and autism services for individuals in Kentucky. KRS 194A.625 requires the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to administer the autism spectrum disorder trust fund. This administrative regulation establishes the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders grant program.

Section 1. Definitions.

- (1) "Applicant" means a non-profit entity, academic medical center, or government agency that:
 - (a) Offers research funding and services for autistic individuals in Kentucky; and
 - (b) Is applying for a grant pursuant to this administrative regulation.
- (2) "Autism services" means "treatment for autism spectrum disorders" as defined by KRS 304.17A-142(1)(e).
- (3) "Council" means the Kentucky Advisory Council on Autism Spectrum Disorders.
- (4) "Funding" means a financial award provided by a grant from the autism spectrum disorder trust fund created by KRS 194A.625 that includes awards for:
 - (a) Autism service programs; or
 - (b) Autism research meant to improve early screening, diagnosis, and interventions, or to enhance quality of life for autistic individuals.

Section 2. Application Process.

- (1) An applicant may apply or reapply each year for grant funding.
- (2) To apply for grant funding, an applicant shall submit to the council in writing:
 - (a) A completed Autism Research and Services Trust Fund Grant Application with the required supporting documentation, via electronic mail, to KYACAggrantprogram@ky.gov, with a sent time stamp on or before the date specified in the applicable grant notice;
 - (b) A project description that includes:
 1. The need for the funding;
 2. How the funding will positively impact the prioritized list of programs and research projects established in the most current plan required by KRS 194A.624(8)
 - (b);
 3. The goals and objectives, including how many people are impacted and in what geographic area;
 4. The anticipated outcomes directly related to the impact of the program or research project;
 5. An implementation plan describing how the goals and objectives will be met;
 6. A timeline for implementation of the proposed program or research project;
 7. A description of the research methodology, if applicable, that includes the:

- a. Study design;
 - b. Data collection methods and procedures;
 - c. Data sources; and
 - d. Data analysis plan; and
- 8. Intent to provide a semi-annual progress report and a year-end progress report documenting progress toward meeting the grant objectives; and
- (c) The following financial information:
 - 1. A detailed budget of requested funds; and
 - 2. A description of any other sources of funds for the research including in-kind participation.
- (3) An application not submitted in accordance with this section or an incomplete application shall not be considered for funding.

Section 3. Grant oversight duties of the council.

- (1) The council shall:
 - (a) Hold meetings and conduct business pursuant to KRS 194A.624;
 - (b) Advertise a grant funding opportunity, when available, on the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Web site including:
 - 1. A required postmark or timestamp date for submission of an application;
 - 2. The mailing address or email address for submission of the completed application as specified in Section 2(2)(a) of this administrative regulation; and
 - 3. An anticipated grant award date;
 - (c) Review and score applications based on the following criteria:
 - 1. Relevancy to the mission of the autism spectrum disorder trust fund;
 - 2. Offer of research funding or services to benefit individuals with autism;
 - 3. The quality of the research methodology;
 - 4. How the proposal addresses the priorities established in the plan required by KRS 194A.624(8)(b); and
 - (d) To the extent funds are available:
 - 1. Award an autism spectrum disorder trust fund grant to a selected applicant; and
 - 2. Notify the applicant of the award decision, including details of denial or approval:
 - a. Within ninety (90) calendar days after application deadline;
 - b. In writing:
 - (i) Via email; or
 - (ii) By certified mail.
- (2) The council's decision for award selection shall be final.
- (3) If a research grant is awarded, the grant shall be contingent upon a grant recipient's appropriate Institutional Review Board approval if applicable.
- (4) The council may allocate funds, received in the autism spectrum disorder trust fund, for the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities to employ staff to:
 - (a) Administer and oversee the grant program; or
 - (b) Coordinate the preparation and submission of the annual report, required pursuant to KRS 194A.624(8).

Section 4. Grant Objectives Reporting.

- (1) A grant recipient shall provide semi-annual and year-end progress reports to the council, via electronic mail to kyacagrantsprogram@ky.gov.
- (2) The report shall include, specifically related to the approved grant funding project or research, details on progress toward:
 - (a) Impact and outcomes;
 - (b) Implementation, goals, and objectives;
 - (c) Meeting proposed timelines;

- (d) Maintaining the project or research budget; and
 - (e) Any other pertinent information that demonstrates the effectiveness or progress of the program or research.
- (3) A grant recipient that is not making progress toward meeting grant objectives, as determined by review and analysis of the semi-annual and year-end progress reports submitted to the council, shall be notified in writing that objectives are not being met, within thirty (30) days of this determination.
- (4) The grant recipient:
- (a) Shall submit to the council, within thirty (30) calendar days of the notice:
 - 1. A corrective action plan addressing the objectives that are not being met; and
 - 2. The timeframe for achieving the objectives; and
 - (b) May be subject to fines or payment penalties, as delineated in the grant agreement, or other penalties that are allowed by law, if the corrective action plan is not implemented as submitted.
- (5) The council shall approve corrective action plans that:
- (a) Address all noted objectives that are not being met; and
 - (b) Include a specific plan of action, and timeframe to maintain the overall project or research objective and timeline.

Section 5. Incorporation by Reference.

- (1) Form "Autism Research and Services Trust Fund Grant Application", 10/2026, is incorporated by reference.
- (2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40621, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time/ 7a.m. through 3:30p.m. Central Time. This material may also be viewed on the department's web site at <https://dbhdid.ky.gov/dpi>. 908 KAR 6:005

KATHERINE R. MARKS, Ph.D., Commissioner
STEVEN J. STACK, MD, MBA, Secretary

APPROVED BY AGENCY: September 28, 2026

FILED WITH LRC: October 14, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall, if requested, be held on December 21, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., Eastern Time/ 8:00 a.m. Central Time, using the CHFS Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Zoom meeting room. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to each requestor the week prior to the scheduled hearing. Individuals interested in attending this virtual hearing shall notify this agency in writing by December 14, 2026, five (5) workdays prior to the hearing, of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who attends virtually will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to be heard at the public hearing, you may submit written comments on this proposed administrative regulation through December 31, 2026. Send written notification of intent to attend the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person. Pursuant to KRS 13A.280(8), copies of the statement of consideration and, if applicable, the amended after comments version of the administrative regulation shall be made available upon request.

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