

Can I receive services?

You can receive services if you are a person with intellectual disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder living in Harris County.

How can I receive services?

Step 1: If you are seeking Early Childhood Intervention services for a child under the age of 3, please call 713-970-4800. For all other services, you, your parent, legal guardian or primary caregiver can call The Harris Center Access Center at 713-970-7000.

Step 2: Once the referral is received from the Access Center, a Consumer Services Coordinator will explain what documents are needed and how you can get them. You may also view this information on our website at TheHarrisCenter.org

Step 3: After your documents are received, if necessary, you will receive a Determination of Intellectual Disabilities (DID) to determine your eligibility for services.

Step 4: A Business Office staff member will discuss possible fees that may apply and assist you in obtaining benefits for which you may be eligible.

Step 5: An Eligibility Coordinator will meet with you to assess needs, explain services and explain rights.

Step 6: If you are eligible for services, a Service Coordinator will be assigned to help you and your family understand your rights and available benefits.



Rights Protection Offices

If you feel you have been unfairly treated, have been denied needed services, have been denied accommodation by The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD or if you are unable to resolve a complaint regarding services with The Harris Center staff person, or their supervisor, you may contact the following Rights Protection Offices:

The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD

PO Box 25381
Houston, Texas 77256-5381
24-hour line: (713) 970-7742
Texas Relay (TDD) 1-800-735-2989

Texas Health and Human Services

Office of Consumer Services and Rights Protection
701 West 51st Street
Austin, Texas 78751
1-800-458-9858
Texas Relay (TDD) 1-800-735-2989

Disability Rights Texas
1500 McGowen, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77004
713-974-7691
Voice or TDD 800-880-0821

All complaints are handled confidentially.



Transforming Lives

Intellectual Disability & Autism Services

Access Center: 713-970-7000
9401 Southwest Freeway
Houston, Texas 77074

www.TheHarrisCenter.org



Intellectual Disability & Autism Services



*Helping individuals
reach new heights*

What services can I receive?

Accessing services

Access Center – Initial screening and assessment services for both children and adults seeking IDD services in the Harris County area. Call 713-970-7000 for information.



Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) – Services designed to assist parents in addressing the needs of children under the age of 3 with delayed development and/or certain medical diagnoses which will result in delayed development. Services offered include evaluation and assessment, occupational and physical therapy, speech-language therapy, service coordination, family counseling and education, and developmental services. Services are provided in child's home or community settings (daycare, foster parent, grandparent, etc.).

ABA-SkIP Skills Intervention Program – ABA: Designed for children ages 3 – 15 years old with autism or developmental disabilities and delays in language, motor skills, academic skills, play skills, as well as, inappropriate classroom behaviors. SKIP utilizes Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) techniques such as discrete trial teaching, positive reinforcement, and extensive data collection to increase the students' skills set. Goals of SKIP are to replicate a preschool and elementary school environment to teach the children how to integrate into a typical classroom setting. This program is funded in part by the Department of Assistive & Rehabilitative Services (DARS).

Children (school-age)

Transition Services – A coordinated set of activities for students aimed at promoting a successful transition from school to post-school activities, programs and independent involvement within the community.

Children & Adults

University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center Consultation and Liaison Team – consultative services for physicians who treat consumers while they are admitted to the University of Texas Harris County Psychiatric Center (UTHCPC) or the NeuroPsychiatric Center (NPC). Services include assisting patients admitted to UTHCPC to apply for The Harris Center IDD services; providing IDD consultation services to UTHCPC and NPC staff; providing liaison services between UTHCPC staff and The Harris Center; and providing liaison services between Harris County Probate Courts housed at UTHCPC and The Harris Center. The team is developing a model protocol for effective inpatient consultation, discharge and aftercare that promotes outpatient stability.

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF-ID) – A Medicaid-certified program usually housing up to six individuals with IDD in a residential group home setting. The Individual Program Plans are structured to allow consumers to acquire and master the skills necessary to participate in the mainstream of community living. The basic training areas include daily living skills, behavioral intervention, vocational training, and functional academic skills.

Texas Home Living Waiver (TXHML) – A wide variety of services and supports for individuals with IDD or a related condition so that they can continue to live with their families or in their own homes.

Training & Community Outreach: Provides appropriate training to external contracted providers (i.e. general revenue, waiver providers). Outreach services are inclusive of attendance at fairs, community presentations, and working collaboratively with Independent School Districts within Houston and surrounding areas.

IDD Intensive Needs Team – Community-based interventions for high-risk individuals with IDD and ASD and their families to help stabilize behavioral problems in the natural home, while linking to other services to prevent people from cycling unproductively through multiple systems and to promote stable, successful community living.

Specialized Therapies & Rehabilitative Services (STARS): Provides psychiatric, nursing, behavior analytic, psychological and social work counseling services to children and adults with IDD including autism, and co-occurring psychiatric conditions or severe behaviors. Also provides consultative service to providers. Services offered include evaluation, diagnosis, medication stabilization and medication management, parent education about disabilities, psychotherapy and counseling, and applied behavior analysis, and are offered at two clinic locations in Harris County.

Respite Care – Short-term temporary or intermittent direct care of a child or adult, either in-home or out-of-home.

- In-Home Respite – Families choose their own respite provider (friend, relative, etc.) who provides this service within the individual's home.
- Out-of-Home Respite – The individual/family is given a choice of respite services, from a list of contracted providers. The program can be used for overnight or daytime stays.

Adults (18 years of age and older)

Coffeehouse: Social skills and communication training for adults with Asperger's Disorder or autism and limited cognitive delays to facilitate employment and full community integration. Services include a "drop-in" model for people to attend discussions of relevant and interesting topics as their daily schedule allows, individualized treatment planning, peer monitoring, and psychological support.