

COVID-19 Resource: Autism and Intellectual Services

*Due to COVID-19 services and programs are changing rapidly.
Please contact agencies directly to determine the availability of their individual programs.*

Dakota County Community Living Services Intake

The CLS unit can help find solutions to help individuals with disabilities live as independently as possible. Get more information on [Aging & Disability Services](#) at Dakota County. Call 651-554-6336 or email clsintake@co.dakota.mn.us.

Dakota County Crisis Response Unit (CRU)

CRU provides mental health crisis help for children and adults support via phone. Call 952-891-7171 24/7 for assistance.

Emergency Psychiatry Appointments

Dakota County contracts with the Associated Clinic of Psychology and MN Mental Health Clinics for Emergency Psychiatry. For an appointment, call CRU at 952-891-7171.

ARC-Minnesota Advocacy Resource

There are various resources for individuals with disabilities on the [ARC-MN COVID 19 Resource Guide](#), such as:

- *How to talk about COVID-19*
- *Financial/unemployment support*
- *Emergency Preparedness*
- *Self Advocacy Resources*

For more information, call 952-920-0855.

Autism Society of Minnesota (AuSM)

[AuSM](#) provides information, webinars, therapy for children and adults affected by the Autism Spectrum Disorder. Call 651-647-1082 for more information.

Parent Support and Navigation

Two agencies in Dakota County provide parent support and connection to mental health resources when a parent is concerned about their child who is ages 1 to 21: Isuroon and NAMI Minnesota. There is no cost for these services.

Isuroon

Isuroon provides culturally specific support to the Somali and East African Communities. They are currently taking new referrals and teletherapy mediums such as Skype, Facetime, etc. Visit the [Isuroon](#) website or call 612-886-2731 for more information.

NAMI Minnesota

[NAMI](#) is now providing support, resources, [online support groups](#) and [classes](#) to children and families living with mental illnesses. Call the NAMI Help Line at 651-645-2948 ext. 117.

Disability Law Center

The [Disability Law Center](#) provides free legal assistance to individuals with disabilities, regardless of age or income, on legal issues related to their disabilities.

LawHelpMN

[LawHelpMN](#) is another resource for legal help and can provide information on [distance learning and special education services](#) in Minnesota during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minnesota Department of Education

The Minnesota Department of Education also has resources on [special education services](#).

Resources and Strategies to Support Children with Disabilities

[This document](#) links users to webinars, tips sheets, social stories for leaders, service providers, teachers, support staff, children and families.

Proof Alliance FASD Support Grant

This program provides one-time, limited financial assistance up to \$500 to families raising children with an FASD, or individuals with an FASD. Funds are restricted to families/individuals residing in Dakota, Ramsey and Washington Counties. Funds will not be allocated for supports or services already being paid for by a government entity. [Click here for the application](#)

- This grant can be used for sensory items
 - School supplies
 - Tutoring and or lessons of any kind
- Families will have to provided three things:
- Proof of diagnosis
 - Letter explaining what the grant is being used for
 - Proof of income
 - Contact Roxanne by phone (651-917-23370 ext. 107) or email at Roxanne.King@proofalliance.org

Autism Speaks

The Autism website has with various resources for individuals with Autism, parents, and educators. Visit the [Autism COVID-19 Resources](#) page for information on how COVID-19 may be impacting the Autism community. The following are some support services offered by Autism Speaks:

- *Teaching/Visual Supports*
- *Behavioral Support*
- *Parent Support*
- *Stress & Mental Health*
- *Virtual Support Events*
- *Sensory support*

[Autism Research Institute](#)

The Autism Research Institute is a great resource to learn about Autism Spectrum Disorders, symptoms, assessment, and treatments. It's also a great resource for the Autism community on [coping with the COVID-10 pandemic](#). There are webinars, social stories, and behavioral support resources available. Call the Autism Research Institute at 833-281-7165 for more information.

[Autism Parenting Magazine](#)

The [Autism Parenting Magazine](#), through subscription, has a variety of articles to support parents during the COVID-19 pandemic, with topics such as:

- Navigating disrupted routines
- Meeting sensory needs at home
- Managing emotional impact

[Project Echo](#)

Project Echo has [resources for parents](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[PACER](#)

The PACER Center is a great resource for children and young adults with disabilities, their parents, and their families. PACER hosts a variety of programs such as Bullying Prevention, Dispute Resolution, Housing Project, Juvenile Justice, among many others. There is also information on:

- [Special Education](#)
- [Simon Technology Center](#)
- [Transition and employment](#)
- [Workshops and live stream events](#)

Call the PACER Center at 952-838-9000 for more information.

[Vitals Aware Service](#)

The [Vitals Aware Service](#) offers real-time safety service/device for vulnerable individuals if they need to communicate with 911 dispatchers and first responders. Both individuals with disabilities and their caregivers can use this service. Call 612-599-7595 for more information.

[Minnesota Autism Resource Portal](#)

The [Minnesota Autism Resource Portal](#) offers resources to connect families to services in their local communities as well as programs to support children throughout their lives. There are also resources specifically relating to [COVID-19 for the Autism community](#).