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# News

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## **New Website for Information on Autism and Autism Spectrum Disorders**

*Albany-* Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) and their families now have a single comprehensive resource to go to for important information on ASDs and the State services agencies available to address the needs of individuals and their families living with these diagnoses – the New York ACTS website – [www.nyacts.org](http://www.nyacts.org)

New York ACTS (An Initiative for Adults and Children on the Spectrum) was developed in partnership with 11 State agencies, as a way to bring reliable, current information to the public about autism and to assist New York's families to easily find State services for their loved ones with ASD. Because individuals with ASD may need services from different systems – education, health, mental health and developmental disabilities services – NYACTS offers a dedicated site from which people can get the information they need without any prior knowledge of New York's service agencies.

In addition to information on autism and State services and supports for individuals and families, New York ACTS provides news stories related to ASD, the answers to frequently asked questions, and information on important laws, events and trainings, the network of university-affiliated resource centers for autism and related disabilities across the State, State autism initiatives, and profiles of citizens of all ages living with ASD. A cross-agency committee will regularly update and maintain the website as a means to bring the latest information to a wide range of parties.

New York ACTS is sponsored by the following New York State agencies: OMRDD; SED; Office of Mental Health; Department of Health; Office of Children and Family Services; Developmental Disabilities Planning Council; Commission on Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities; Council on Children and Families; Office for Temporary and Disability Assistance; Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse Services, and New York State Insurance Department. It is estimated that more than 60,000 New York State residents have a diagnosis of autism or autism spectrum disorders and that the incidence of autism could reach 4 million Americans in the next decade. For more information go to the New York ACTS website at: [www.nyacts.org](http://www.nyacts.org).

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