



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), a neurodevelopmental disorder, is the fastest growing developmental disability in the United States, affecting more than three million people; and

WHEREAS, the lifelong nature of ASD and other developmental disabilities have a serious impact on the thousands of individuals and their families across New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the number of children affected by autism nationally is now approximately one in 68 and approximately one in 41 children in New Jersey are diagnosed with autism; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Autism Registry has identified more than 24,000 children with autism and provides information on the characteristics of, and the services needed by, children with autism for policy and planning in New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, a variety of public and private organizations and agencies strive to provide quality care, support or services to children and adults with ASD to enable them to live as independently as possible and to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, each organization has a role in identifying, assessing or supporting those with ASD and their families; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism provides funding to support the NJ Autism Center of Excellence which conducts biomedical and clinical research on autism; and

WHEREAS, the Office on Autism in the Department of Human Services provides a central location to address ASD issues and to enhance communication and coordination among our State agencies; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Children and Families' Children's System of Care serves children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral health care challenges and developmental and intellectual disabilities and their families; and

WHEREAS, April 2nd has been designated World Autism Awareness Day to raise public awareness of this disorder and the myriad of issues surrounding it;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Philip D. Murphy, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby proclaim:

APRIL 2019
AS
AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

in New Jersey and encourage our residents to become educated and informed about programs, services and opportunities to support individuals with autism.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this twentieth day of March in the year two thousand nineteen, the two hundred forty-third year of the Independence of the United States.


Lt. GOVERNOR


GOVERNOR