

Dear,

Thank you for taking the time to review this request for CDCS waiver funding to attend Camp Discovery/Camp Hand in Hand offered by Autism Society of Minnesota. AuSM camps are tailored to meet specific support, sensory and safety needs of campers – including staffing ratios, visual schedules, advance warning of transitions, sensory and communication accommodations, emotion coaching, and crisis intervention. These adaptations prevent elopement, assist with executive function, support emotional regulation, and facilitate successful participation in traditional camp activities that would otherwise be inaccessible to these individuals. A safe camp has been scientifically proven to promote social-emotional learning, skill development, goal setting, belonging, independence, and optimism among participants.

AuSM's leadership and policy team have been in communication with MN Department of Human Services Disability Services Division, and has confirmed that this program is an allowable CDCS expense – and meets all the criteria necessary for approval for campers with applicable goals. We have confirmed that there have been no changes in the guidelines or policies, and there was no legislation that changed the framework.

Please feel free to reach out to AuSM with any questions or clarification about this service – and how it meets the expectations set in place by DHS or inclusion in CDCS planning.

Thank you.



Ellie Wilson
AuSM Executive Director