

**NEWS REPORT** | October 13, 2020

# Autism Alliance of Michigan Sets Goal To Create 101,000 Jobs For Adults With Autism Within 10 Years

The Autism Alliance of Michigan has set a 10-year goal to create 101,000 jobs for adults on the autism spectrum and secure educational changes to ensure those job candidates are qualified. The organization intends to collaborate with other organizations to achieve the goal. The Autism Alliance of Michigan is currently in the planning phase, and expects to complete its planning within the next 12 months.

The early plans call for Autism Alliance of Michigan to provide both education and training for employers and job supports and readiness training for jobseekers. It plans to leverage multiple sources of funding, including contribution of its own philanthropic support, corporate and foundation grants, and state and federal workforce funding options.

The organization intends to recruit employers to develop a pool of jobs based on a demand-driven system. It is currently convening stakeholder meetings with disability agencies across the state to better understand the service system challenges that exist for individuals on the autism spectrum to find jobs. The goal is to streamline the entire system to efficiently “match” jobs with the very best talent. Over the past three years, the Autism Alliance of Michigan has placed more than 250 individuals, with a retention rate of 95%.

Autism Alliance of Michigan is a non-profit organization founded in 2009. It provides services to help people with autism meet their full potential. On its 2019 federal Form 990, it recorded revenue of \$3.8 million, and expenses of \$3.3 million, with \$2.2 million reported as direct program expenses. Its largest service line is MINAVIGATOR, which provides navigation case management for caregivers, professionals, and community members. The service includes access to online resources and professional consultation. During 2019, 5,000 families received services. The organization also provides employment services and education services. The employment program provides a multidisciplinary team of experts and employer training. During 2019, it assisted 800 job seekers. The education program focused on increasing early autism screening rates and on caregiver preparation.

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