



## **CEO Message:**

*Happy Fall Everyone! I hope all of you can find time to enjoy this beautiful season in our state. At AAoM, this is the time of year we are laser focused on insurance. It can be a significant challenge to navigate the many options, complicated policies, and decision making needed to choose the right plan for your family, especially when living with autism. Luckily, our navigators are ready to help. Please let us help you with this challenging process, giving you time back to jump in a pile of leaves, pick out the best pumpkin, or prepare a fabulous Halloween costume!*

Sincerely,  **AutismAlliance**  
of Michigan





## A Place to Start Regarding Insurance Information

*Contributed by Chaunta Tsegaye, MSA, Insurance Specialist, AAoM*

The landscape of healthcare has changed leaving families with more questions and concerns than ever before. In past issues we have always tried to help inform families of changes in this landscape and how services are affected. This issue will be no different, but because of the pandemic some service options have been extended and new options added.

Due to under and unemployment families not only face financial difficulties, but are also questioning, where can they go for insurance? The easiest place to go is to the [Healthcare Marketplace](#). On this website you can create an account and search for affordable, yet thorough coverage.

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## Things to remember when creating an account:

- Give accurate information regarding household income and zip code
- Monthly premium is calculated based on service options
- Premium credits are reflected in quote
- Check with your providers and see if they accept the Marketplace plan
- If you are eligible for other insurances; you will be prompted (i.e. Medicaid)
- The service will not begin until you pay the premium payment
- You can cancel at any time
- You can not be dually enrolled in a Marketplace and Medicaid plan

Families can also apply to the [Social Security Administration](#) for Social Security Disability Insurance. If you are unsure of your eligibility you can go to the website or contact your local Social Security office.

**\*\* All government funded programs have asset tests and income limits. \*\***

## Open Enrollment Dates:

**Medicare** open enrollment is not only for people 65 and up, but could also help with medical expenses for people who receive State Medicare. Open enrollment for these changes begin October 15, 2021 thru December 7, 2021 for services beginning January 1, 2022.

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**Marketplace “Child Only”** open enrollment begins November 1, 2021 thru December 15, 2021; coverage begins January 1, 2022

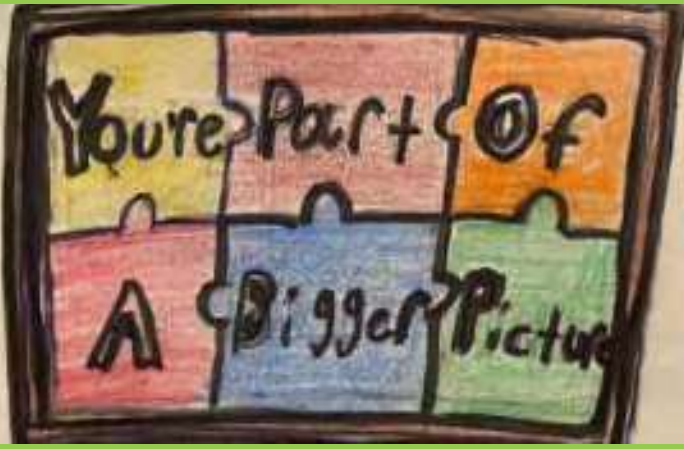
**Medicaid** does not have an enrollment period. To set up an account and apply for benefits go to [MiBridges](#) and fill out the appropriate information. Be sure to check only the boxes for the household member that you are requesting benefits for. If you are enrolled in a HMO (i.e. Molina) be sure to recertify during recertification period.

**Employer Sponsored Plan** Open enrollment varies based on your employer. Most plans have a January start date. If you are unsure of when your company has open enrollment, contact your HR department.

No matter which plan you choose or which options are available you should always do the following before making a final decision:

- Make sure your providers are in-network
- Understand your deductible, co-insurance, co-pays, and out of pocket (oop) max
- Verify coverage for mental and behavioral health services

***With so many options, families may feel overwhelmed. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Autism Alliance of Michigan 877-463-2266 or [navigator@aaomi.org](mailto:navigator@aaomi.org)***



## Making a Difference

*Contributed by AAoM's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee*

The Autism Alliance of Michigan collaborated with DTE and their Impact Student Scholars on their two day Autism Awareness event in August. Kicking it off with a AAoM virtual autism awareness and acceptance talk and then convening the next day at Cody High school to walk 1.54 miles to honor the 1 in 54 children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder across our country. The students created artwork and ideas of what an inclusive community means to them to accompany them during their walk. Thank you Impact Students & DTE for inviting us to be a part of this event!



Pictured on the left is one 16 year old student's artwork.

To watch the video:

<https://empoweringmichigan.com/making-an-impact-with-the-autism-alliance-of-michigan/>

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# Upcoming Community Events



Date	Event
October 21	<a href="#">The After I'm Gone Program- Social Security Programs</a>
October 22	<a href="#">The Michigan Guardianship Association Fall 2021 Conference</a>
October 23	<a href="#">Virtual Halloween Party!</a>
October 23	<a href="#">Autism Alliance of Barry County 5K Glow Walk/Run &amp; 1Mile Monster Dash</a>
October 25-26	<a href="#">CMHAM 2021 Fall Conference</a>
October 27	<a href="#">Teen and Young Adult Social Group Halloween Party</a>
October 28	<a href="#">Marquette Halloween PARTY!</a>
October 29	<a href="#">Van Riper Lecture Series   Trauma-Informed Care in the field of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences</a>
November 3	<a href="#">"Virtual" Music Therapy Event – Together Let's Sing, Dance and Jam!!</a>
November 4	<a href="#">The After I'm Gone Program - Department of Health and Human Services</a>
November 5	<a href="#">Peer to Peer Support: Statewide Training</a>
November 8	<a href="#">Genesee Autism Support Group</a>
November 9	<a href="#">Special Needs Micro Business and Resource Fair</a>
November 10	<a href="#">The After I'm Gone Program - Social Security Programs</a>
November 11	<a href="#">MI-UCP Assistive Technology Talks</a>
November 13	<a href="#">Encaustic Art Party</a>
November 17	<a href="#">Employment Supports for Transition-Aged Autistic Youth</a>
November 19	<a href="#">Sibshops</a>
November 20	<a href="#">Father's Autism Support Group</a>





“Improving employment outcomes for individuals with disabilities”



Upbound at Work, a fully integrated program within the Autism Alliance of Michigan, leads and supports disability-employment initiatives throughout the State of Michigan.

Contact Upbound at Work to receive additional information:

Employee Pre-Assessment: <https://autismallianceofmichigan.org/employee-pre-assessment/>

Website: <https://upboundatwork.com/>

Email: [upbound@aaomi.org](mailto:upbound@aaomi.org)

Phone: [248.590.2773](tel:248.590.2773)



**MiPAAC**  
MICHIGAN PARENT, ADVOCATE  
& ATTORNEY COALITION

Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC) is a newly formed statewide group focused on student-centered advocacy.

MiPAAC aims to educate families of children with special education needs on topics relevant to their advocacy efforts.

To join – complete the [\*\*MiPAAC membership form!\*\*](#)

<https://mipaac.org/>



PROCEEDS BENEFIT:



AutismAlliance  
of Michigan

# HOUDINI- WEENIE

OCTOBER 24, 11AM-5PM

## JOIN US DOWNTOWN

for MUSIC, an ILLUSIONIST,  
and, of course, HOUDINI-  
WEENIES and BEER ... all  
on the 95TH ANNIVERSARY  
of HOUDINI'S FINAL  
PERFORMANCE right here  
in DETROIT which took  
place at THE  
GARRICK THEATRE  
across the street!



ENJOY the  
special edition  
Houdini-weenie  
and make  
it disappear!



DETROIT ★ LAS VEGAS

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