

# PROVIDER WELCOME KIT



**AUTISM ALLIANCE**  
OF MICHIGAN

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3-4      **WELCOME LETTER**

5-6      **ABOUT US**

7-8      **MiNAVIGATOR RESOURCE  
DIRECTORY**

9-10     **SAFETY PROGRAM**

11-12    **HEALTH & WELLNESS**

13-15    **EVENTS & TRAINING**



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# WELCOME LETTER



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## **WELCOME PROVIDER PARTNER!**

We at Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) are continuously seeking further connection to Michigan's autism-based service providers in working to create greater access for the populations we collectively serve. For providers, we offer two standard areas of collaboration. The first being access to our MiNavigator Program and joining our Resource Directory.

MiNavigator is our flagship service at the AAoM. We work with individuals across the state, including providers like yourself, in addressing specific needs related to autism. Having your information listed within our Resource Directory will allow both our Navigators and the public who access our site, the ability to see your organization's information to identify an appropriate provider. Learn more about both of these areas on [pages 7-8](#).

Our second area of collaboration is membership in our statewide Provider Group meetings. AAoM hosts quarterly meetings, bringing together contacts from across Michigan. During these meetings, we provide significant and relevant updates from MDHHS, the Autism Council, and AAoM. We also share best practice content and provide a platform for providers to address practice management challenges and gain potential resolutions from their peers.

To request communication on future meetings, contact our Director of Statewide Access & Early Identification Initiatives, Erik Gallery, at [erik.gallery@aaomi.org](mailto:erik.gallery@aaomi.org).

While the above lists our common areas of connection, we encourage you to review our full Welcome Kit to learn more about AAoM's wide-reaching initiatives in serving Michigan's autistic communities.

# ABOUT US



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## WHO ARE WE

AAoM was founded in 2009 out of a need to address significant service barriers for individuals and families living with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

We believe that every family should have access to services to assist with clinical and education goals, to create a safety plan to keep their child from wandering, enjoy resources and entertainment venues in their community, and to access housing, transportation, and employment for independent living. In short, we believe no family member should be limited because they have autism.

Through our three Pillars of Work – Navigation, Education, and Employment – AAoM has served over 40,000 people throughout the state and continues to lead efforts to raise expectations and expand opportunities for autistic persons across their lifespan.

AAoM strives to be a place of hope, here autistic adults and children can feel understood, valued, and accepted and where caregivers can feel heard, supported, and embraced. Through our three Pillars of work, we provide individuals and families living with autism with the tools and resources they need to lead lives that meet their greatest potential.

## ABOUT MiNAVIGATOR

MiNavigator was created to provide free professional consultation to individuals and families across Michigan affected by autism-based needs. Since inception, we have served over 14,000 persons directly, and thousands more through our community education and training initiatives.

MiNavigator is made up of an interdisciplinary team of professionals, ranging in backgrounds including clinical services, education, vocational rehabilitation, and lived autism experience. Navigators provide resource identification for a variety of needs as they relate to autism. Some of these needs include:

- Gaining a diagnosis of autism
- Identifying a local service provider (e.g., ABA, OT, SLP, etc.)
- Locating recreational and community-based opportunities
- Aiding providers in finding additional support for autistic clients
- *And so much more!*

Navigators aim to serve any person, ranging from parents and caregivers, autistic persons, and service providers. To get started, [click here](#) to complete our contact form.

# MiNAVIGATOR RESOURCE DIRECTORY



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## WHAT IS IT?

AAoM is here to help families and caregivers find the right care for their loved ones' needs. Our comprehensive Resource Directory connects our community with specialists – like you – who can support them with everything from autism evaluations and vaccination appointments to a wide range of professional services.

## BENEFITS OF BECOMING A PART OF THE NETWORK

Inclusion in the Resource Directory network will provide you with the opportunity to enhance your practice and broaden your impact within the community. By listing your services in the Resource Directory, you'll gain access to a vast network of individuals and families in need of specialized care and support, and foster connections with fellow healthcare professionals dedicated to improving the lives of autistic persons.

## HOW TO GET CONNECTED

AAoM is continually seeking autism-based service providers across the state of Michigan to join our database. Are you interested in joining our Resource Directory? [Get started here.](#) For more information, email us at [info@aaomi.org](mailto:info@aaomi.org).



# SAFETY PROGRAM



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AAoM's Safety Program strives to protect and serve families in Michigan that are caring for a person with autism. Our Safety Program works to connect families with additional resources related to the varying needs of one's safety. We do this through individualized consultation and guidance, working to understand the unique needs of the person, and identifying options for long-term resolution.

Additionally, the Safety Program includes education of both caregivers and first responders through targeted training events. Our hope is that this education will aid our communities in adapting to the needs that arise in safety situations.

We also offer a GPS Scholarship to families and individuals that are experiencing elopement. Along with our GPS vendor, AAoM is able to provide a wearable GPS device and one year of paid service to eligible applicants. Eligibility for the scholarship is based on the needs experienced by the individual, and presented financial need.

For more information about the Safety Program, [click here](#).

# HEALTH & WELLNESS



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Regular healthcare appointments, including routine vaccinations and annual check-ups, are vital for the overall wellbeing of autistic individuals. By prioritizing health & wellness, those living with autism can feel empowered to lead healthy, fulfilling lives and access the resources and support they need to reach their highest potential.

AAoM prioritizes the general health & wellbeing of its community through various initiatives, such as:

- Maintaining immunization-based resources and integrating further health-focused content into AAoM's Health & Wellness landing page.
- Rotating storytelling between providers, parents/caregivers, and autistic individuals to offer diverse perspectives.
- Connecting with provider partners across the state in offering consultation towards improved access to their physical facilities and services. This has included staff training and collaboration in facility enhancements such as sensory spaces and kits.

To learn more about this initiative's work and aligned resources, [click here](#).

# EVENTS & TRAININGS



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## AAoM'S SIGNATURE EVENTS

AAoM hosts annual events throughout the year with the goal of bringing further acceptance, education, and support for the autistic community. These include our regional **Navigating Autism Today (NAT)** conferences, our **Autism Hero Walk**, and the **Michigan Shines for Autism Gala**.

- **NAT Conferences:** These regionally based conferences seek to disseminate education and share wider resources important to the autistic community. This is an event to bring together families, autistic individuals, and service providers towards a shared goal of identifying further support where needed.
- **Autism Hero Walk:** The Autism Hero Walk has become the largest gathering of the autistic community in Michigan! Families and autistic persons come together during this day of embrace, to participate in a community walk and activities in the Detroit Zoo, and attend one of the largest autism based vendor fairs.
- **Michigan Shines for Autism Gala:** This is AAoM's largest fundraising event, which supports our organization overall, including programmatic initiatives. It's an evening of dining, entertainment, and networking to support our autistic community.

To learn more about these events and how to get involved, [click here](#).

## AAoM'S SIGNATURE TRAININGS

AAoM provides education opportunities across the state with a number of diverse trainings. Thousands of residents, including caregivers and service providers, have participated in these sessions. Our most popular training has been our Autism 101.

Autism 101 is designed to be broadly relevant and impactful for a wide audience, from professionals to community residents. Additionally, this training teaches the common characteristics and needs that may be associated with autism. It provides background on the development of autism and dispels associated myths. It also aims to make the audience aware of resource options as needed.

Our training options expand into the *Watch Me Grow* series. This series is designed for professional providers serving autistic clients. The trainings collectively aim to build knowledge around identifying developmental warning signs and appropriate responses to address varying needs. The series includes:

- Watch Me Grow: Developmental Milestones and Red Flags
- Difficult Conversations
- Sensory Processing

We schedule monthly webinars for all of these sessions. They can be viewed [here](#).

We are also able to provide live, organization-wide trainings depending on availability. Find our Collaboration Request Form [here](#).

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Our Community Calendar is your go-to resource for a wide variety of events hosted by our external stakeholders. From informative workshops and educational seminars to recreational activities and support groups, the Community Calendar showcases a diverse range of opportunities tailored to the unique needs and interests of those living with autism. [Click here](#) to stay up to date with events happening within our network. Do you have an event you'd like to share with the community? Contact us at [info@aaomi.org](mailto:info@aaomi.org).

## MINAVIGATOR NEWSLETTERS

Want to stay up to date with autism support and resources? Our MiNavigator Newsletters are a great way to stay informed about all things AAoM. To view past editions of our newsletters, and to subscribe to our mailing list, [click here](#).

# THANK YOU

## STAY CONNECTED WITH US

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Contact us by phone at (877) 463-AAOM  
or email us at [info@aaomi.org](mailto:info@aaomi.org)

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