

# PROVIDER WELCOME *KIT*



**AUTISM ALLIANCE**  
OF MICHIGAN

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# WELCOME LETTER



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## WELCOME PROVIDER PARTNER!

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

Our second area of collaboration is membership within our statewide Provider Forum. AAoM hosts an online community of Michigan based providers via our LinkedIn page. Through this forum we provide significant and relevant updates from MDHHS, the Autism Council, and AAoM related initiatives. We also prioritize sharing Best Practice content and aim to provide a platform for providers to address practice management challenges and gain potential resolutions from their peers.

Learn more about this resource and how to access it on [pages 9-10](#).

While the above list our common areas of connection, we encourage you to review our full Welcome Kit and 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).

# PROVIDER FORUM



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## **PROVIDER FORUM:**

The AAoM Provider Forum is a growing online community of autism based service providers from across the state. It's hosted as a private group on AAoM's LinkedIn platform. Its purpose is to create an accessible format for members to receive relevant, statewide updates to autism based care, and to engage with each other around practice management needs, barriers to care access, and areas of continuous improvement.

In this forum, AAoM provides quarterly, statewide updates that relate to areas around MDHHS, commercial insurers, the Autism Council, etc.. We also encourage members to post their relevant queries around access/care to those they serve, and needed insurance support.

Our goal in creating this forum is to not only create a space where we deliver news, but also a community where shared resources and guidance can be offered from peers in the industry.

To get started, please use the following link to locate our group, utilizing your own LinkedIn account: [www.linkedin.com/groups/14633222](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14633222).

# GPS SCHOLARSHIP



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Are you a Michigan family facing safety challenges related to autism? The AAoM **GPS Scholarship** is here to help. Designed to provide peace of mind and promote independence, this program aims to provide a life-changing tool to families in need.

### **Who Can Benefit?**

This scholarship is available to Michigan residents experiencing safety-related needs, which may include:

- Elopement (wandering or bolting)
- Property destruction
- Engaging appropriately with authority figures
- Independent living challenges

### **What Does the Scholarship Include?**

A new GPS device — to help keep loved ones safe

A limited subscription to the tracking service — ensuring real-time location updates

### **Why Choose the AAoM GPS Scholarship?**

Tools like GPS devices can provide a secure, reliable method to monitor and protect loved ones. They also offer families reassurance, knowing their loved ones are safer and more supported in their daily lives.

### **Who Qualifies?**

This program prioritizes individuals demonstrating a financial need—because safety and independence should be accessible to all.

*Please note, our GPS Scholarship is dependent on AAoM's independent fundraising efforts in keeping this resource available. Wait times may be incurred based on available funds for the scholarship.*

To learn more about the GPS Scholarship and to apply, please click [here](#).

*\*Please note, tools such as a GPS device may only offer a short term benefit to addressing needs like elopement. Connecting to a clinical service provider that specializes in behavioral safety needs is essential to addressing these items towards a long term resolution.*

# 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



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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](#).

# 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)

[Visit our website](#)



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