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Skillman Foundation awards \$150,000 grant to Autism Alliance of Michigan for advance systems change in education

Southfield, Michigan (March 8, 2023) — The Skillman Foundation has awarded a \$150,000 grant to the **Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)** to support multiple efforts that address systemic barriers to high-quality, equitable opportunities in education for students with disabilities in Michigan.

“Michigan remains in the bottom ten states for education. Students with disabilities experience some of the lowest graduation rates in the country. Populations of color are doubly impacted, with fewer resources, inclusive opportunities, and excessive episodes of seclusion, restraint, and discipline. We have to do better. We appreciate that The Skillman Foundation is supporting our advocacy and collective impact efforts,” said **Colleen Allen, President and CEO of the Autism Alliance of Michigan.**

With support from The Skillman Foundation, AAoM will deepen collaborations with Detroit community partners in order to build and launch a new parent advocacy cohort that engages, equips, and empowers Detroit families of students with disabilities.

AAoM will dive deeper into understanding Detroit students and families in order to expose disparities in education during ongoing discussions with state leaders and will further emphasize work on growing the diversity in membership of its grassroots education coalition - the Michigan Parent, Advocate & Attorney Coalition (MiPAAC).



ABOUT THE AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN

The Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM) is a 501(c)(3) organization and trusted ally and partner for thousands of families dealing with Autism. AAoM's mission is to lead efforts to raise expectations and expand opportunities for people affected by autism across their lifespan. We work to create a more accepting future for all people by cultivating a world rich in diverse abilities, talents, and ideas. An AAoM navigator can be reached at 877-463-2266 (AAOM) or email at navigator@aaomi.org. More information about AAoM can be found at www.autismallianceofmichigan.org

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