

Support Autistic Voices in Michigan: Fund the MiA3 Community-Led Needs Assessment



**FULL SPECTRUM
AGENCY *for*
AUTISTIC ADULTS**

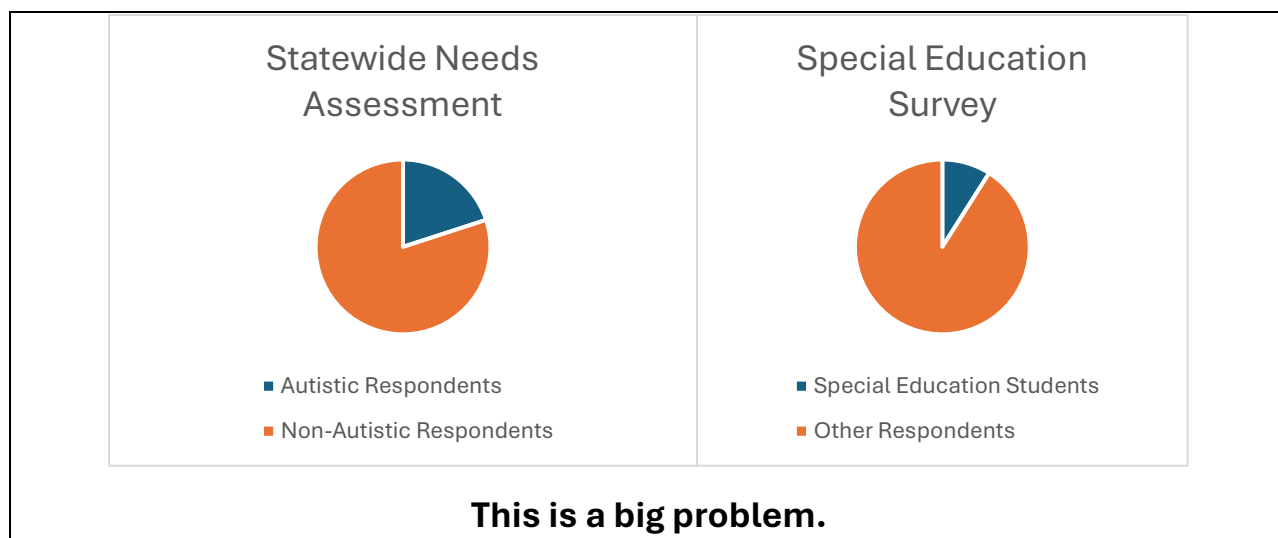
*Supports a groundbreaking statewide needs assessment created **by** Autistic people, **for** Autistic people.*

Across Michigan, many Autistic youth and adults tell us they are facing serious challenges with healthcare, education, and social belonging. These problems can be even worse for people who are also part of marginalized groups—like those who are Black, LGBTQ+, or living in poverty. Despite growing awareness about autism, Michigan’s services for Autistic individuals, especially during the crucial transition to adulthood—fall short. We need real, community-informed solutions. That’s where the Michigan Autistic Adult Advisory Committee (MiA3) comes in.

MiA3, a grassroots group formed by Full Spectrum Agency for Autistic Adults and led by Autistic adults across Michigan, is stepping up to change how decisions are made about autism policy in our state. This fundraiser supports MiA3’s groundbreaking statewide needs assessment—created *by* Autistic people, *for* Autistic people. Our goal is to collect powerful, first-hand data that will help reshape Michigan’s autism services and policies based on what Autistic people actually need—not just what others think we need.

What’s the Problem?

Right now, most autism needs assessments in Michigan rely heavily on parents or guardians to speak for Autistic people. For example, a recent statewide needs survey had four times as many responses from caregivers as from Autistic adults themselves. Similarly, in a major special education survey, less than 9% of students answered for themselves.



Research shows that Autistic people often have very different priorities than our caregivers. When our voices are missing, important needs—like sensory-friendly spaces, mental health support, or respectful language—are often overlooked. We believe in the disability justice principle of “nothing about us without us.” Autistic people *must* lead conversations that affect our lives.

Our Solution: A Statewide, Autistic-Led Survey

MiA3 is leading a statewide needs assessment created entirely by Autistic adults. Our survey will ask three big questions:

1. **What do Autistic Michiganders say they need** when it comes to support, services, and social spaces?
2. **How good are the services they currently have access to**—and how easy are they to use?
3. **How do answers differ** based on race, age, gender, age of diagnosis, or diagnosis level?

We’re aiming for 2,000 responses from Autistic people aged 13 and up across the state. The survey will be available online and in-person, and people can complete it on their own, with a support person, or with help from a trained administrator.

To make sure Autistic voices are heard from all regions and communities, we’ll host at least **ten in-person survey parties** across Michigan with refreshments and staff to support accessibility. We’ll collaborate with trusted partners like local Disability Networks and Arcs to reach people where they are.

Why This Matters

The results of this survey will go directly to the Michigan Autism Council, where they can help shape the State Autism Plan—a key document that guides state action in health, education, and workforce development. Past plans helped expand Medicaid coverage and pass autism insurance laws. But without real input from Autistic people, future policies may continue to miss the mark.

With this project, MiA3 will provide both numbers and stories—quantitative and qualitative evidence—that reveal what’s really happening in Autistic people’s lives across Michigan. We’ll make sure these findings are shared with state leaders, used in public policy conversations, and grounded in lived experience.

How You Can Help

Your support will help us:

- Reach underrepresented communities
- Host accessible, inclusive in-person survey events
- Train and pay Autistic people to lead this work
- Analyze data and present findings to policymakers
- Sustain Full Spectrum Agency’s work

Together, we can help build a Michigan where Autistic people are heard, respected, and supported—on our own terms. Thank you for being part of this movement.