



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CALHOUN COUNTY

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

September 6, 2024

Alex Fedorowych, CEO  
Heartland Center for Autism  
1820 Eastern Ave SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Dear Alex,

I am happy to provide the Heartland Center for Autism with this Statement of Need as you seek to expand into the greater Lansing area. As you know, the Calhoun County branch of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recently had an enormous success story with a youth placed at Heartland. The youth in question received treatment from you for approximately 90 days, and subsequently had a placement outcome that we did not think was even obtainable for him.

With a recent experience like this, we are likewise extremely excited to hear about the planned expansion into a new 10-bed facility for children who have been diagnosed with ASD and who need short-term inpatient care and intervention. The prevalence of ASD-related needs has been growing within child welfare, although there is limited availability for intensive treatment. As such, it is very encouraging to know that soon there may be more opportunities for youth with these needs.

Thank you again for your partnership and for your efforts on behalf of children and families facing these unique challenges. If there is anything further we can assist with, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shaun Culp".

Shaun Culp, Director  
Calhoun County Dept of Health and Human Services  
[Culps@michigan.gov](mailto:Culps@michigan.gov)