

# Assessment Methodology

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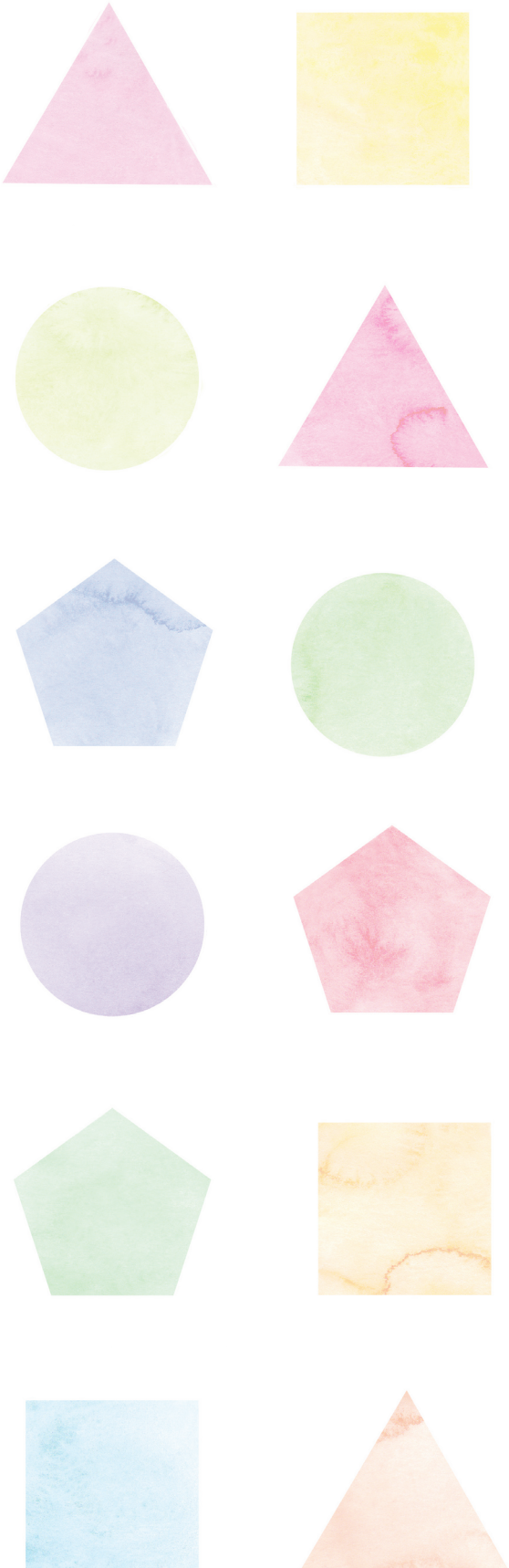
This community assessment was conducted with the dual purpose of:

1. providing a general description of the ASD resources and services infrastructure currently available in the Capital Region, and
2. recommending strategic priorities focused on building an ASD resources and services infrastructure more ideally suited to serving the Region's current and projected future needs with an eye toward what our community can reasonably develop and sustain.

Some of the observations and recommendations offered in this report touch upon issues related to health care service delivery and health care providers. These observations and recommendations were developed through review of relevant, current ASD literature and interviews with health care professionals in the Capital Region.

We recognize an ASD diagnosis is commonly accompanied by other medical, physical, and/or mental conditions, for example: Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), gastrointestinal issues, sleep disorders, seizures, intellectual disability, and many others. Fully addressing the complexity of this ever varying mix of disorders and conditions is well beyond the scope of this community assessment project.

However, we believe the focused attention of this report on ASD provides insights that may also prove useful to addressing this larger mix of co-occurring conditions. A discussion on these comorbidities and the existing literature is included in this report.



The methodology utilized to conduct this assessment included the following work components.

- 1. Materials Review** – The project team, in collaboration with ASD stakeholders and experts, gathered and reviewed a large cache of relevant documents and materials that provided the team with a solid understanding of relevant history, the present state, and dynamics of the anticipated future environment. Some of these materials and documents are specifically mentioned in this report with copies or excerpts provided as figures in the body or included as appendices to the report.



- 2. Interviews and Follow-Up Work Sessions** – The project team conducted interviews with key leaders and ASD stakeholders to gain a broad understanding of the Capital Region's ASD resources and services infrastructure, including current capacities, issues of concern, and perceived strategic priorities for strengthening the ASD infrastructure. Most interviews were conducted in person with telephone and email follow-up as necessary.



- 3. Comparative Research of Organizational and Operational Models** – The project team reviewed and analyzed a selected group of relevant organizations/business models for the purpose of identifying organizational structures and operational practices that could prove useful in crafting strategic priorities.



- 4. Assessment Results Summary** – Utilizing all information and stakeholder input gathered through the assessment activities, the project team developed a community assessment report (this document) featuring general observations and recommendations organized into distinct subtopics.

