

Brampton Autism Centre Proposal

Presented by:

South Asian
Autism Awareness
Centre
(SAAAC)

February 2022



SAAAC
AUTISM
CENTRE



Scarborough's South Asian Autism Awareness Centre:

Why we exist

To help all families in need
of access to autism services

To build inclusive
communities through
culturally responsive autism
practices and accessible
programming

To focus on and build
resource awareness among
culturally and linguistically
diverse families and high
needs communities



SAAAC Autism Centre: Who we help

Ninety per cent of families served have come to Canada within the past 15 years

Commonly spoken languages by families at our centre include: Tamil, Urdu, Arabic, Tagalog, Cantonese

Sixty per cent of families identify as low-income (household income \$40,000 and less)

Average age of diagnosis is 5
Average age of entry into clinical service is 6



SAAAC Autism Centre: How we grew

- 2008 Founded by accountant/dance instructor Geetha Moorthy run out of her basement
Initial clientele: **2 kids** & their families
Run by: 6 volunteers, 0 staff
- 2012 Clientele grows to **100 kids**/families
Charitable status obtained
- 2013 First full-time staff person hired
- 2014 Clientele grows to **120 kids**/families
5,000 sq. ft. industrial unit rented
- 2016 Clientele grows to **260 kids**/families
- 2018 SAAAC moves to 11,000 sq. ft. industrial unit, provided at a nominal fee by the City of Toronto
- 2022 Clientele grows to **450 kids**/families
150 volunteers
23 full-time staff
- Centre expands to include 2,000 sq. ft. job training facility for young adults
- Toronto approves a proposed 10,000 sq. ft. expansion as City-owned space becomes available



SAAAC Autism Centre: How we help

Free and subsidized programs for kids with autism and their families:

- Applied Behaviour Analysis
- Speech Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Caregiver Mental Health Program
- Just Dance Program
- Functional Fitness and Movement Skills
- Living N Learning Day Adult Program
- Mobile Development Outreach Clinic
- Creative Arts Program
- Foundation for Success Program
- Case Management
- Everyday Practical Strategies for Caregivers
- Entry to School



SAAAC Autism Centre:

Who we would help in Brampton

Majority of families served
will be new Canadians

Services will be available in
English, as well as Punjabi,
Urdu, Gujarati, Hindi, Tamil,
Tagalog and other languages
as required

Majority of families served
will come from lower-income
households (income of
\$40,000 a year or less)

Average age of diagnosis
will be 5 years old



How can Brampton help?

**Provide a 10,000 to 15,000
sq. ft. building (preferably
close to a park or other
community amenity)**

**Fund any necessary
renovations to the building**

**Fund the annual cost of
operating the building**



What would SAAAC bring to the table?

- Professional staff: Part-time in-house doctors, therapists, mental health experts
- Partnerships with numerous community agencies
- Partnerships with long-established autism service providers
- Partnerships with provincial hospitals and physicians
- Partnerships with public health departments, schools and the Ontario government
- Partnerships with established foundations and donors
- Stable fee-for-service funding model



Who
would SAAAC
bring
to the table?

Public
partners



Who
would SAAAC
bring
to the table?

Private
partners

La fondation
McConnell
Foundation

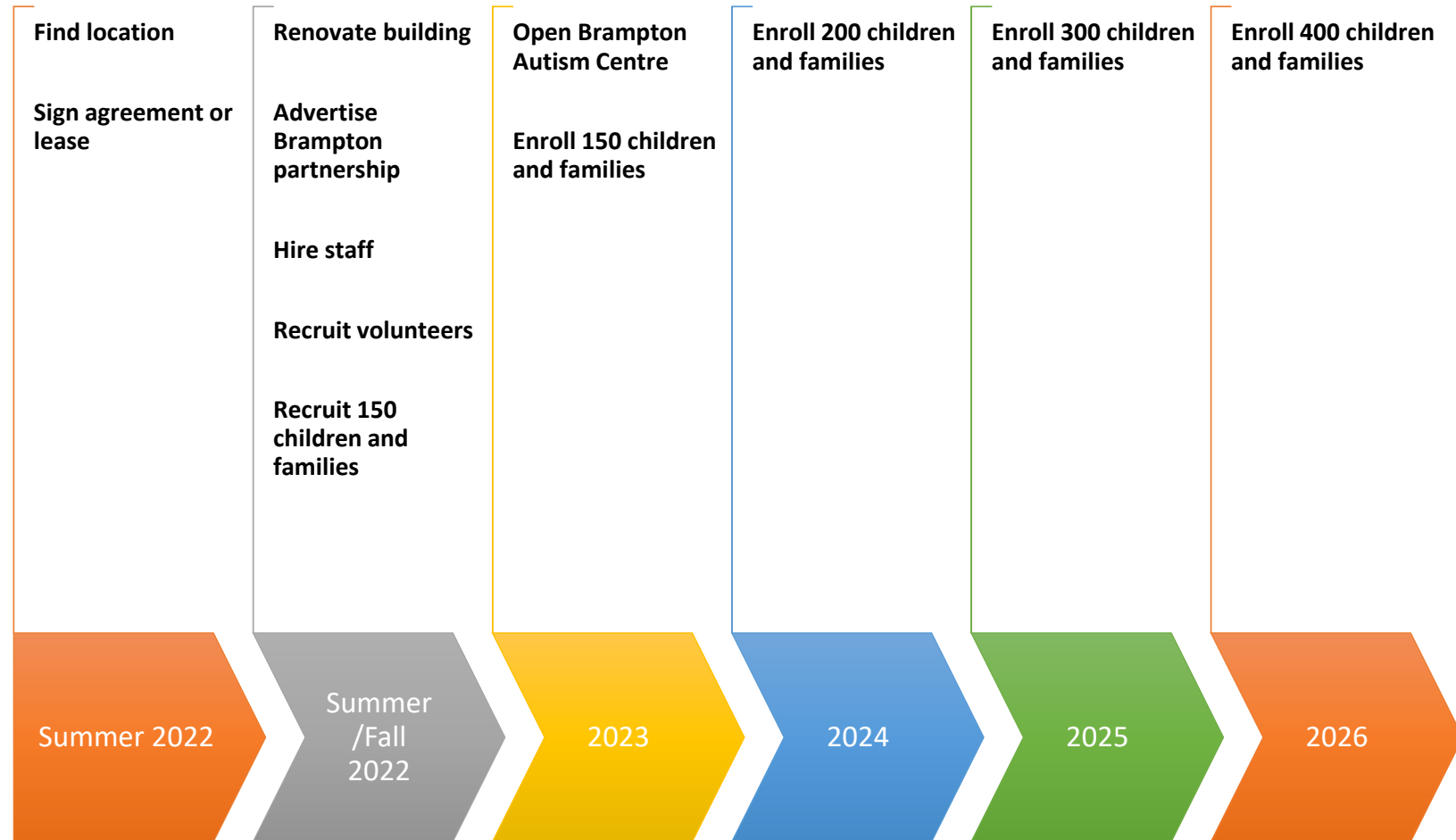


Who
would SAAAC
bring
to the table?

Volunteers



Proposed timeline for Brampton Autism Centre



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**For more information
contact:**

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