



SENSORY-SAFE CUTS

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1 Introduction

Traditional salons can be overwhelming for neurodiverse individuals due to bright lights, loud sounds, and unexpected textures, often leading families to avoid haircuts altogether. Most grooming professionals lack the training to support these needs. Sensory-Safe Cuts bridges this gap by promoting training, advocacy, and partnerships to create sensory-friendly, inclusive grooming experiences for all.

Aim

We are looking to ensure the development, certification, and adoption of sensory-awareness training in the grooming industry; work with experts and policymakers to make the training a licensure requirement, advancing inclusivity in barbering and hairstyling.

REFERENCES 2

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SUMMARY

The Problem:

Haircuts can be distressing for neurodiverse individuals due to sensory triggers in typical salons.

Our Goal:

Ensure the establishment of sensory-awareness training and make it a required standard for barbers and hairstylists.

Our Approach:

Research, advocacy, certification oversight, and community engagement.

Desired Results:

A less agonizing experience for the neurodiverse community

Conclusion

Sensory-Safe Cuts is working to make the grooming industry more inclusive for individuals with sensory-processing differences. We advocate for sensory-awareness training, support certification programs, and push for policy changes to ensure grooming professionals are equipped to serve neurodiverse clients with care. Through collaboration, we're creating a future where grooming is empowering and accessible for all.

Methodology 3

Conduct Research & Assessment: Locate research partners to gather qualitative and quantitative data from barbers, hairstylists, individuals and families across various counties in the state of New Jersey. The research will evaluate current awareness, challenges, and readiness for sensory-friendly grooming.

Sensory-Awareness Training & Certification: Collaborate with experts to develop and oversee structured training and certification for barbers and stylists in sensory-friendly practices in line with the research results.

Policy & Licensing Advocacy: Work with licensing boards and lawmakers to make sensory-awareness training a mandatory component of barbering licensure.

Salon & Barber Engagement: Engage salon owners and barbering schools to promote training adoption and launch a Sensory-Safe Salon Directory.

Community Awareness & Outreach: Lead campaigns and events to raise public awareness and connect families with trained professionals.

Funding & Sustainability: Pursue grants, sponsorships, and donor support while building a membership model to sustain and scale efforts.

5 Findings

Category	Key Findings
Sensory Sensitivities in Neurodiverse Individuals	Up to 90% of autistic individuals face sensory challenges, making haircuts overwhelming (Undivided.io).
Lack of Awareness in the Grooming Industry	Most stylists lack sensory-friendly training, leading to anxiety and negative experiences (Autism Speaks).
High Demand for Sensory-Friendly Grooming	Many families struggle to find trained stylists, resorting to at-home haircuts (Apex ABA).
Need for Licensing & Policy Standards	Sensory-awareness training isn't required for licensure, limiting accessibility (Special Needs Barber).
Impact of Sensory-Safe Training	Training improves experiences, builds trust, and expands business opportunities. Simple adjustments create more inclusive salons.

