



**Achieve with us.**

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## **The Arc of New Jersey to Pilot Local HealthMeet Health Screening Project for People with Disabilities**

The Arc of the United States recently launched its new HealthMeet project, funded through a three year, \$1 million cooperative agreement with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Through this project, 5 Chapters of The Arc, including The Arc of New Jersey, will have the opportunity to pilot local health screenings, provide assistance with health care navigation, and lead health promotion activities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

"With cutting edge technology and a network of top notch partners, this project has the potential to uncover eye-opening information about the health of the millions of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in this country. We are thrilled to be given this opportunity by the CDC to learn more about the health of this population and help change lives in the long run by informing policy and systems change at a national level," said Peter V. Berns, CEO of The Arc.

"Healthy lifestyles and health promotion has long been a priority for The Arc of New Jersey. That's why we have engaged in such unique projects as our diabetes awareness program, our women's health project and our cancer screening education" stated Thomas Baffuto, Executive Director of The Arc of New Jersey. "HealthMeet will now offer another great way for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to learn how to maintain good health and lead active, fulfilling lives."

Each chapter of The Arc selected for this pilot program will receive funding to improve the health of people with I/DD through health screenings and follow-up discussions for those with health concerns, as well as trainings for people with I/DD, their caregivers, and health professionals. These chapters will play a critical role in national efforts to address health issues for people with I/DD. These efforts include gathering, collecting and analyzing data regarding health outcomes and common health concerns for people with I/DD, promoting information regarding health disparities with this population to raise public awareness, and improving health care access for all people with disabilities through training for people with ID, caregivers, health students and professionals.

Chapters of The Arc selected for this exciting project include:

- Achieva** - Pittsburgh, PA
- The Arc of Massachusetts** - Waltham, MA
- The Arc of New Jersey** - North Brunswick, NJ
- The Arc of North Carolina** - Raleigh, NC
- The Arc San Francisco** - San Francisco, CA

The Arc advocates for and serves people with I/DD, including Down syndrome, autism, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders, cerebral palsy and other diagnoses. The Arc has a network of over 700 chapters across the country promoting and protecting the human rights of people with I/DD and actively supporting their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes and without regard to diagnosis.

*Editor's Note: The Arc is not an acronym; always refer to us as The Arc, not The ARC and never ARC. The Arc should be considered as a title or a phrase.*

**For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities**