



For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

**Achieve with us.**

## GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

### Congressman MacArthur Visits with The Arc

In July, The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc, Ocean County Chapter welcomed Congressman MacArthur to a program in Toms River to introduce him to individuals served by the Chapter and to show their important role Medicaid plays in the lives of those with I/DD. Staff from The Arc of New Jersey and The Arc, Ocean County Chapter gave the Congressman a tour of the program and spoke about the ways services in the community impact people's lives. Congressman MacArthur took the time to speak with program attendees as well as families whose loved ones rely on The Arc, Ocean County Chapter for services.

This was a great opportunity to show off the wonderful work of The Arc and the ways Medicaid provides for community integration and needed services. As Washington debated changes to healthcare, and simultaneously Medicaid, and discussion begins on the federal budget, illustrating the critical work of our Chapters and the impact they have on people's lives is a crucial way of advocating with our congressional delegation.

Want more information about what The Arc of New Jersey is doing to protect Medicaid? Be sure to visit our [Protect the Lifeline](#) page for recent events, actions alerts and updates.



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### Update on FY18 Funding for Direct Support Professionals

As you may know, The Arc of New Jersey served as Chair of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage in FY17 and the Coalition was successful in obtaining a \$20 million line item to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals in this year's budget. The Coalition's Steering Committee recently released an update about when the funding will be available to the State's DSP workforce. [Click here](#) to read more.



## NJ Self-Advocacy Project Advocates Throughout the State



In honor of the 27th anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), members from the regional Councils of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network and the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project team, gathered at the Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk on July 21st to spread awareness of the ADA. This was a great opportunity to educate people about the law and the impact it continues to have on people with disabilities.



On July 18th, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP) Team was at the State House in Trenton for REV UP NJ to celebrate National Disability Voter Registration Week. This event was part of Rev UP's ongoing efforts to increase participation from people with disabilities in the election process. Ashley Ritchey, Director of NJSAP, delivered a presentation about voting and the team was on hand to provide information about self-advocacy and The Arc of New Jersey.

## Staff Member Named to APSE Board of Directors

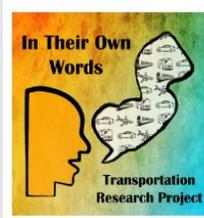
The Arc of New Jersey would like to congratulate our very own Wesley Anderson on his recent appointment to the National Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Board of Directors. Wesley, The Arc of New Jersey's Director of Training and Consultation Services, works statewide to train supported employment providers on best practices and emerging trends. Congratulations to Wesley on this outstanding accomplishment!



## "In Their Own Words" Podcast Goes Live!

For close to a year, the NJ Self-Advocacy Project has been interviewing people with I/DD, asking them how transportation in NJ affects their lives. The Transportation Research Project focused on the significant impact transportation - or lack of - has on the lives of people with I/DD. With more than 120 interviews posted, and more to come, the message is

very clear that NJ's limited public transportation system is an enormous barrier to people with I/DD living included lives in the community. The interviews and resulting podcast, titled "In Their Own Words" is supported by a grant from the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities.



"There's no reason why an individual with a disability has to limit their life to things that are offered in a given county...it's ridiculous to limit [them]."

Read and hear the interviews at [www.InTheirOwnWords.info](http://www.InTheirOwnWords.info). For more information about the project, call [732.749.8514](tel:732.749.8514).

## Check Out These Upcoming Events, Webinars

### **Webinar: Lunch & Learn: IEP Basics** **[Tuesday, September 12 at 12 pm](#)**

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute as they talk about the IEP process, what to look for, and how to get started.

### **Webinar: The Journey to Community Housing with Supports** **[Wednesday, September 13 at 6 pm](#)**

Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Deb Werhlen from the Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey, this webinar will help attendees gain insight on how to utilize resources available to them from multiple sources to fund housing and supportive services.



### **The 34th Annual NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network Fall Conference** **[Saturday, September 16 from 8 am to 3 pm](#)**

The annual conference will include distinguished speakers, workshops, lunch and socializing. Attendees must register by September 8th. The event will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Somerset, NJ.

### **Webinar: Understanding Supplemental Income Reporting Responsibilities** **[Tuesday, September 26 at 12 pm](#)**

Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility is determined on a month by month basis. If you or your loved ones receive benefits from Social Security, you have a legal obligation to report changes, which could affect eligibility for SSI benefits and Medicaid. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by David Vinokurov, District Manager for the New Jersey Social Security Administration Office in Trenton, attendees will learn how to report changes for your SSI benefits and avoiding SSI overpayments and underpayments.

## Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

**Visit our website** to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

**Join our advocacy network** to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Visit our website

Join an Advocacy Network

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