



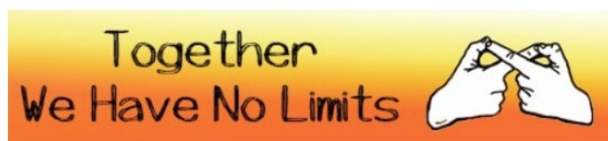
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Budget Advocacy to Intensify in March

The month of March will be a very busy legislative time for The Arc of New Jersey. On the 5th, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Network will be down at the State House to celebrate Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This event is an opportunity to raise awareness about the issues impacting people with I/DD and gives self-advocates the chance to speak directly to our state's elected officials. Also this month, Governor Phil Murphy will deliver his first Budget Address on Tuesday, March 13. Following the address, the Legislature will hold public hearings across the State to receive input and feedback on fiscal priorities from any and all individuals and organizations wishing to participate. The Arc of NJ plans to testify before the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees. Please keep a lookout in the weeks and months to come for action alerts outlining how you can help us advocate for funding in the FY19 Budget. Our advocacy campaign includes continued work to increase wages for the Direct Support Professional workforce, funding to move individuals off the Waiting List and the creation of additional housing vouchers so people with I/DD can live integrated lives in the community. To continue reading, [click here](#).



The Arc of NJ Celebrates DD Awareness Mo.



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! This is great occasion to raise awareness about the positive contributions made by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It is also a chance to promote respect, foster understanding and encourage inclusivity. Our theme this year is: Together We Have No Limits.

Want to help celebrate DD Awareness Month? [Click here](#) for additional information and resources.

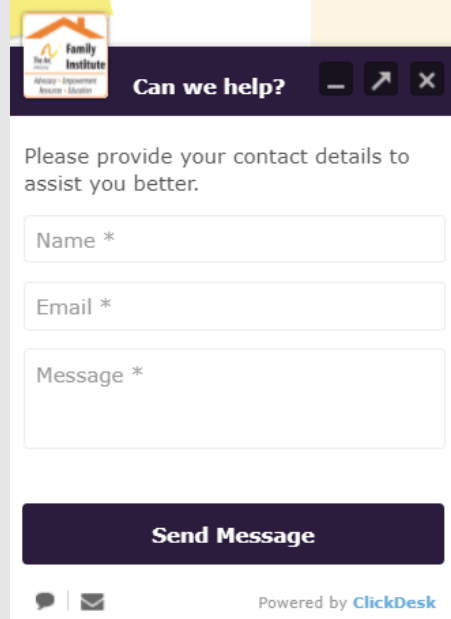
Register for Self-Advocacy Luncheon and Chat with the Family Institute



Registration is now open for the 13th Annual Spring Into Action Self-Advocacy Luncheon. The event will take place on **Saturday, April 7 from 10 am to 2 pm** at the Imperia in Somerset. You can register online by visiting [this site](#), or you can mail in your registration form to the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project at 985 Livingston Avenue, North Brunswick, NJ 08902. The cost of registration is only \$35.

The Luncheon will include the presentation of awards as well as dancing and plenty of opportunity for socializing. We hope to see you there!

Questions? Contact Frankie Bayak at fbayak@arcnj.org or call (732) 749-8514.



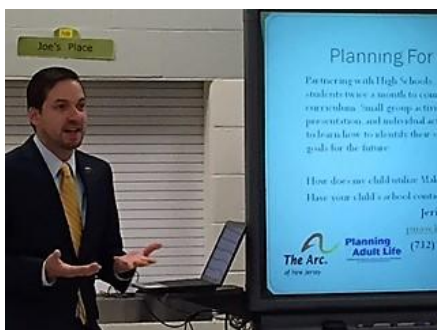
Last month, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute unveiled a new chat feature on their homepage. If you didn't have the chance to try it out, make sure you visit their [web site](#) during the month of March. A representative will be available to chat **Monday & Tuesday from 11 am to 1 pm** or **Wednesday from 2 to 3 pm**. The chat box is located on the right-hand side of the homepage. Not able to chat? Send an email to fap@arcnj.org.

Council 3 Self-Advocates Elect New Officers

In February, members of Council 3 of the NJ Statewide Self-Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) elected new representatives. Council 3 is a regional self-advocacy group with members hailing from Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset Counties. The group met on February 13th in North Brunswick to hold their elections. Each nominee was given an opportunity to present a speech to their group members before voting began. The elected leadership will maintain their positions until the NJSSAN Elections in 2020. The photo features the newly elected Chair, Vice Chair, Sergeant at Arms and Secretaries of Council 3. From left to right: Sean - Vice Chair, Brian - Chair, AJ - Sgt.-at-Arms, Cathy - Secretary, Anita - Secretary, Cindy - Treasurer (not pictured).



Planning for Adult Life to host Opportunity Expos



The Arc of New Jersey's Planning for Adult Life (PFAL) program will host FREE Parent Forum and Opportunity Expos throughout the spring. These events are held across the state and include workshops on specific topics such as support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expos feature a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support and recreation providers, and additional information and referral services. Pictured left, Project HIRE Director Adam Kubler gives a presentation entitled,

Registration Open for Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference

The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care (MMC) Program will host their annual Conference on Friday, June 1, 2018 at the Westin Forrestal Village in Princeton. This conference focuses on providing current, up-to-date healthcare information on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. If you are interested in exhibitor and contributor opportunities, please contact Jenn Lynch at JLynch@arcnj.org or 732-784-6397.

- To register for this event, [click here](#).
- To download a copy of the Save the Date, [click here](#).
- To view the conference brochure, [click here](#).

Save the Date
The Arc of New Jersey's
29th Annual Conference on Medical Care
For Persons with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
**The Westin Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ**
Friday, June 1, 2018
Conference brochures will be available
in early March 2018
This conference provides an excellent opportunity to publicize your
health-related and/or DD-related products or services
Exhibitor and Contributor opportunities available!
Please contact Jennifer Zueck at
jlynch@arcnj.org / 732.784.6397
For Further Information

Project SEARCH Seeks Students for 2018-19 School Year

Attention all families with 18-21 year old children with disabilities in the Greater Union County, New Jersey area: The Project SEARCH employment skills training program at Overlook Medical Center is now recruiting students for the 2018-19 school year.

Please [click here](#) to visit the Project SEARCH web site or [here](#) to download the information sheet which includes an overview of the program, the application process and relevant dates and deadlines.

Transitioning Students with Disabilities to Work
Project SEARCH is a one-year, business-based, unpaid internship program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school that takes place entirely at a host business site. It provides students who want to work a chance to explore careers and develop transferable job skills. The combination of instruction and immersion in the workplace prepares young adults with disabilities to make successful transitions from school to productive adult life.

The Goal:
Independent adults working in a competitive environment

Internship Overview
Through the course of an academic year, Project SEARCH students participate in employment related instruction and rotate through two to three internships that are individually crafted to capitalize on each student's individual interests, and vocational goals and potential. Each rotation lasts about 10-12 weeks. Interns work closely with an on-site team, including an instructor, job coach and job developer. The team assists the intern until the task assigned can be performed independently. Agencies are available throughout the program year to provide vocational counseling and guidance. The on-site team, student, family, vocational rehabilitation counselor, and school representatives meet regularly to discuss issues, progress, and career goals.

Basic Eligibility Criteria

- 18-21 years old
- In last year of high school
- All academic requirements for graduation met
- Agree to accept diploma at successful completion of program
- Basic communication skills, verbal or supported by technology
- Appropriate social, grooming, and hygiene skills
- Able to pass drug screening and background check
- Updated immunizations
- Ability to access and willingness to use independent transportation options
- Have independent living skills and lunch routine
- Meet eligibility requirements for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS)
- Maintain appropriate behavior in the workplace
- Ability to take direction and change behavior if necessary
- Desire to be competitively employed

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

Webinar: Advocacy Strategies to Avoid Due Process Tuesday, March 6 at 6 pm

Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law, attendees will learn strategies and techniques to work with the Child Study Team to avoid due process.



College Tour: Career & Community Studies Program - Mercer County Wednesday, March 14 at 6:30 pm

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of the Career & Community Studies Program at The College of New Jersey. The Career & Community Studies Program is a college-based, liberal studies program designed to prepare students with a disability (ages 18-25) for adult life through academics, career discovery and peer socialization as part of a diverse community of learners. During the tour you will have the opportunity to visit the school and speak with program staff to learn about the different aspects of the program.

Free IEP Reviews with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer Thursday, March 22 at 6 pm

Navigating through the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) process can seem overwhelming, but that's where The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute can help. We are offering regional IEP reviews for families who may have questions or concerns about their child's plan. Families will have an opportunity to sit down with an attorney from Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer to review their child's IEP, ask questions, and discuss any concerns they may have about their school district. Space is limited and registration is REQUIRED to attend. Families will receive a FREE 30 minute IEP review. Contact Kristina Tosti at [609-896-4200](tel:609-896-4200) to reserve your time slot.

Webinar: Overcoming Criminal Histories and Successfully Supporting Employment for People with

I/DD

[Thursday, March 29 at 1 pm](#)

There can be obstacles to employment for people with developmental disabilities. A criminal history can make it even more difficult to find and keep a job. In this hour-long webinar, supported employment professional Wesley Anderson will provide an overview of the problem, discuss positive ways to work with employers and outline effective options to help people with developmental disabilities and criminal histories succeed in the workplace.

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](#)

The Arc of New Jersey | 732.246.2525 | info@arcnj.org | www.arcnj.org

STAY CONNECTED

[DONATE NOW!](#)

