UPDATE FROM THE STATE HOUSE

Gov Signs FY17 Budget, Priority Legislation Passes

On Thursday, June 30, Governor Christie signed a $34.5 billion State Budget that includes $79 million in growth to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living in New Jersey. The funding outlined in the final document represents a big commitment to community living by way of a significant increase in the number of housing vouchers as well as funding to address the Waiting List. These were both high-priority items in The Arc of New Jersey’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget campaign. Overall, the State Budget is very much in-line with our top advocacy areas.

The Budget also includes monies to assist people moving out of developmental centers, to address the needs of students as they age out of their educational entitlement, and to respond to emergencies. Additionally, the FY17 Budget includes funding for community providers as they transition to fee-for-service. Unfortunately, a line item of $20 million added by the Legislature for direct support professionals was vetoed by the Governor.

We are thankful to all of the families, self-advocates, local County Chapters of The Arc and community partners who unified behind our budget message, participated in our action alerts and supported our work. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Mainstreaming Medical Care hosts 27th Annual Conference

MMC Chair Leone Murphy, Executive Director Tom Baffuto, MMC Director Beverly Roberts, DHS Commissioner Connolly and Board President Robert Hage spoke at last month's annual conference.

The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care (MMC) Program hosted their 27th annual conference at the Westin Hotel in Princeton, New Jersey on Friday, June 3. The event was attended by more than 330 people and included a number of high-profile speakers, two outstanding keynote sessions and a variety of workshops. The conference was an important opportunity for attendees to learn more about providing quality health care to
The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project team, along with members from the regional Councils of the Statewide Self-Advocacy Network, will be at the Point Pleasant Beach Boardwalk on Friday, July 8, 2016 to celebrate Americans with Disabilities Act Awareness Month. This important legislation, signed into law in July 1990, was a big step forward for people with I/DD because it prohibits discrimination based on a person having a disability. The Self-Advocacy Project will set up an information table between 10 am and 2 pm and will speak with people about the significance of this law as well the importance of person-first language and the elimination of the R-word. If you’re a Self-Advocate and you’re interested in attending, contact Dennis at ddonatelli@arcnj.org or 732-743-8345.

The Arc Celebrates Long-Time Staff Members at Luncheon

The Arc of New Jersey had the pleasure of honoring two of our longest-serving staff members last month at our annual spring luncheon. Congratulations to Project Hire Job Developer Marge...
PLANNED GIVING CORNER

Learning About Wills, Bequests

Taking control of your estate plans is very important because there are a number of disadvantages to foregoing it. Just to give you an idea...

1. Each State has its own way of distributing assets after the death of a person without a will. If a State steps in, your family and relatives will not be consulted about your intentions and preferences.

2. Most people think their spouse will automatically inherit everything and that is not always true.

3. If you are married and you and your spouse die together, you have no say about who will raise your minor children.

4. The Courts can choose a stranger or someone whom you would not want to serve to handle the settlement of your estate, and it may be expensive to pay someone to do this work.

5. You will not have the opportunity to leave a charitable bequest if you die without a will.

"10 in 10" Podcast Introduces Listeners to Local Chapters

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute wants to connect you with our local County Chapters and the wide array of services and supports that they offer. With that in mind, they recently launched the "10 in 10" podcast series which includes 10 questions in 10 minutes with the executive director or a staff person at the local County Chapter. These conversations will be uploaded to the Family Institute web site and can be streamed or downloaded for your listening preference. The first podcast in this new series was conducted with Peggy Englebert, Executive Director at The Arc of Camden County. Click here to listen to the first episode of the "10 in 10" podcast series, and be sure to check back often to learn more about the services and supports available through your local County Chapter of The Arc.

Project HIRE Records Strong Numbers in FY16

As Project HIRE closed out Fiscal Year 2016, the program reported outstanding data about the volume of supported individuals and services rendered. Here’s a quick look:

- In FY16, Project HIRE delivered approximately 36,000 service hours - of which 2,000 were in the CBVI program which was initiated just six months ago to serve people with visual impairments - and approximately 8,000 of the hours delivered were in the School to Work/Transition program.

- Additionally, Project HIRE placed more than 270 individuals into competitive employment.

Congratulations on the great work!

Helping People with I/DD Access Medicaid Services

If you are having difficulties accessing important services from the Medicaid system, The Arc of New Jersey wants to help. Please click here to listen to the first podcast in this new series, and be sure to check back often to learn more about the services and supports that they offer.

WEBINAR - School Anxiety in Children with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Starting school, moving and other stressful life events may trigger the onset of school refusal. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and Bayada for a workshop designed to help you as a caregiver, learn different ways to alleviate stress. The presenter will be Dawn Mitten - a parent, licensed massage therapist and Reiki practitioner.

WEBINAR - Caring for Yourself: Stress Management and Alternative Options

Caring for a loved one can put a strain on even the most resilient person. If you’re a caregiver, you must take steps to preserve your own health and well-being. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and Bayada for a workshop designed to help you, the caregiver, learn different ways to alleviate stress. The presenter will be Dawn Mitten - a parent, licensed massage therapist and Reiki practitioner.

WEBINAR - Managing Refusal in School

In Autism, Aspergers, Developmental Differences and all unique ways of being, Individual therapy, group social skills therapy for adults and kids, family therapy, trauma therapy, special interest clubs, Adult Autism and Asperger's Evaluations, Professional Development programs, Consultations, and more are available. Wednesday, July 20 at 12 pm
Help Us Keep
The Arc of NJ Strong!

The Arc of New Jersey relies on charitable contributions to continue our strong advocacy. Please help keep our efforts moving forward by making a donation to The Arc of New Jersey.

There are several ways you can help us:

2. If your company has a matching gift program, be sure to register your gift so you can double your contribution.
3. Make your donation count all year long by becoming a monthly Sustainer. All you have to do is note on your online donation that you would like it to be a monthly contribution.
4. Donate a vehicle by calling (877) 272-2270.
5. Shop through Amazon Smile. Simply select The Arc of New Jersey from the charities at [Amazon Smile](https://www.amazonSmile.com), and shop like you always do at Amazon.

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The Medicaid Problem Form was developed as a helpful way to obtain concise information on problems that individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are having in obtaining medically necessary services from the Medicaid system.

In addition to the advocacy we have always provided for Medicaid beneficiaries with I/DD, we are currently seeking to assist any Medicaid beneficiary with I/DD who is having difficulty accessing behavioral health services, including services from a psychiatrist, psychiatric nurse practitioner, psychologist and/or social worker.

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