



Proposed FY21 Budget Maintains Funding for Supports & Services, Raises DSP Wages

The Arc of New Jersey is very excited and pleased to report that the Governor's proposed FY21 Budget does not include cuts to Department of Human Services funded services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. In addition, the Budget proposal does include funding to raise wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSP). In light of the devastating impact of COVID-19 on the state's revenues, this is an absolutely tremendous victory and a deserved recognition of the DSP workforce and the assistance they provide to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities both before the pandemic and throughout the past 6 months. The Legislature is now reviewing the Governor's proposed Budget. Legislators will determine what if any changes they want to make to the funding plan and then must send it back to the Governor by September 30, 2020. Please participate in our [action alert](#) to weigh-in with lawmakers ahead of that deadline. It is critical that all funding proposals outlined in the Governor's Budget for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and the workforce that supports them, are maintained. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Executive Director Interviewed by Steve Aduabato

Executive Director Tom Baffuto appeared on One-on-One with Steve Aduabato last month to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Tom highlighted the supports and assistance offered by The Arc of New Jersey, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey's support of our Healthy Lifestyles Project, as well as the outstanding work of the local County Chapters and the incredible service of the Direct Support Professional workforce. Click the image to the right to view the full interview.



Download Now: 2020 Get Out the Vote Guide

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3, 2020, but due to COVID-19, this year's voting process will look very different than it has in the past. All active registered voters will automatically receive mail-in ballots for voting in the 2020 General Election without the need to submit a vote by mail application. **(And don't forget, the last day to register to vote is October 13.)** With this in mind, The Arc of New



Jersey is proud to present our annual Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide, which you can download by clicking the image to the left. Our 2020 GOTV Guide was created to help you navigate the new way of voting, but it also provides resources, insights from individuals who vote, and important deadlines you'll want to keep in mind as Election Day approaches. In addition to the Guide, make sure you visit our Get Out the Vote web site, www.gotvnj.org, for additional resources and information.

US Senators Must Support People with I/DD

People with disabilities and those who support them can't be left behind! The critical needs of people with disabilities, their families, and the direct support professional (DSP) workforce must be included in the next coronavirus relief bill. The U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation that includes many of our top asks – but the Senate introduced a bill that does NOT address most of the critical needs of people with disabilities! Your Senators need to hear from you so that these and other important provisions remain in the bill that ultimately passes Congress:

- Dedicated funding for Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS).
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) for direct support professionals.
- Paid leave for all caregivers.
- Economic impact payments for all people with disabilities.

Take action now by [clicking here!](#)



Chapters to Host Outdoor, Virtual Events This Fall



Although events may look a little different than previous years, local County Chapters of The Arc will continue to host events throughout the fall. Check out the virtual and outdoor happenings near you and register today to support our Chapters and the people they serve! *Above is a photo from the 2019 Pat Romano Sr. Memorial Golf Classic.*

Upcoming Sept/Oct Events

- [The Arc of Camden's 38th Annual Riley-Kennedy Golf Tournament](#) (Email sandi@foulkhuber.com for more information)
- [The Arc of Monmouth Step Up for The Arc Virtual Walk & 5K](#)
- [The Arc of Warren County Golf Classic](#)
- [Pat Romano Sr. Memorial Golf Classic](#)
- [The Arc Ocean Run Walk Ride](#)
- [The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties Golf & Tennis Classic](#)
- [The Arc of Atlantic Pro-AM Golf Event 2020](#)

ALERT!! US Census Bureau to End Count Early

UPDATE: The U.S. Census Bureau announced it will halt all collection activities on September 30th. This could mean fewer people are counted and less funding is available for the next decade for disability services. [Read more about this here.](#)



The 2020 Census is critical. Where there are more people, there are more needs—

for new schools, new roads, and services for families, older adults, and children.

Make sure that you and everyone in your community are counted in the 2020 Census. Results of this count will inform how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed for important programs and services every year for the next 10 years. The time is now. Don't risk losing critical benefits and don't wait to be counted! Click here to respond to the [Census](#).

[#DisabilityCounts2020](#) [#FillItOutNow](#) [#NJCensus2020](#)

Family Institute Develops Fact Sheet to Explain Self-Directed Services

In response to many inquiries about the differences between self-directed services through the NJ Medicaid Personal Preference Program (PPP) and the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute created a fact sheet for families, self-advocates, and professionals. The fact sheet addresses eligibility standards, budget determination and use, and recordkeeping for each program. It also includes a list of key acronyms and a glossary of terms you may encounter while researching which program is right for you. [Click here](#) to download.

SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES
 Personal Preference Program (PPP) and Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

IS PPP THE SAME AS PCA?

PPP is an alternative to traditional agency-delivered services through NJ Medicaid's Personal Care Assistant (PCA) services benefit. PPP allows an individual and the family to have more control over the services they receive. The individual's Medicaid managed care organization (MCO) determines eligibility for PCA and PPP.

KEY ACRONYMS

PPP - Personal Preference Program
 PCA - Personal Care Assistant
 PPL - Public Partnerships, LLC
 RI - Fiscal Intermediary
 AWC - Agency with Choice
 VF/EA - Vendor Fiscal/Employer Agent
 EIN - Employer Identification Number
 MCO - Managed Care Organization
 DDD - Division of Developmental Disabilities

	PPP	DDD
PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY	Must have a documented need for hands-on personal care and have a doctor's order to receive the services. Has NJ FamilyCare/Medicaid Plan A and approved by the MCO for PCA and PPP.	DDD eligible, enrolled in Supports Program or Community Care Program, ready to assume more responsibility over services.
BUDGET DETERMINATION	The MCO determines the budget, based on a formula using the number of hours from the most recent PCA Assessment.	The monthly budget amount is determined by the New Jersey Comprehensive Assessment Tool (NJCAT).
USING YOUR BUDGET	With help from the Financial Consultant, hire staff (including family members) for assistance with activities of daily living including bathing, feeding, dressing and grooming. A small portion of the budget must be used for a service fee.	Hire staff (excluding parents, guardians, or spouses) for community-based and individual support, interpreters, respite, transportation, assistive technology, environmental modifications.

Planning for Adult Life Will Offer Virtual MAPs Classes for High School Students

With so much uncertainty surrounding the 2020-2021 school year, we know children receiving special education services and their parents are concerned about how COVID will impact learning as well as progress toward graduation and next steps. With this in mind, The Arc of New Jersey's Planning for Adult Life (PFAL) Program will now offer virtual Making Action Plans (MAPs) classes for any high school student receiving special education services in New Jersey.

These online classes will focus on, among other things, making decisions, problem solving, how to set priorities, managing disappointment and failure, dealing with uncomfortable situations, and how to ask for help. Using different techniques, students will practice skill-building and stay engaged by interacting with peers and PFAL Transition Navigators. We know COVID-19 will change the way schools operate in the fall, but your child's planning for adult life does not need to take a back seat because of it. The MAPs classes are available to any student, regardless of whether the student's school district is connected to the PFAL program. For more information, visit the PFAL web site [here](#), or email Jerisa Maseko at jmaseko@arcnj.org



Upcoming Virtual Events!

We've added additional webinars to help individuals with I/DD and their families during this difficult time. Register today and be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other upcoming events.



Webinar: REV UP NJ - Make the Disability Vote Count**Tuesday, September 15 at 12 pm**

The Alliance Center for Independence and REV UP - NJ will present an informative and interactive workshop on the rights of people with developmental disabilities to vote. On November 3rd voters will go to polls (or mail their ballots) and select a president, members of congress and Senators. Don't be left out of the election process. This workshop, geared towards first time voters, will discuss the process of voting from registration to casting your vote, while emphasizing your right to vote as a US Citizen.

[**Register here!**](#)

Webinar: Tips for Supporting Your Student in a Virtual Classroom Setting**Wednesday, September 16 at 6 pm**

We have learned so much during this time of social distancing. We continued to teach the MAPs Classes to our students! Let the Planning for Adult Life staff share tips that we have learned along the way to help create an environment to assist your student in participating in virtual learning.

[**Register here!**](#)

Webinar: Using Legislative Options to Reform Laws to Assist People with I/DD Who Are Caught Up in the Criminal Justice System**Thursday, September 17 at 2 pm**

Join us for the first Equal Justice Talks webinar to hear how families are working to improve the criminal justice system for people with IDD. LRIDD is a parent support and advocacy group which began as a grassroots parent advocacy group and has grown into a national movement of families and professionals seeking criminal justice reform for individuals with IDD who have become involved in the criminal justice system. As we know, people with IDD are grossly overrepresented in the criminal justice system, though their disability is overlooked in investigation, prosecution and sentencing. The speakers will discuss the creation of the movement, particularly the activities and successes around changing legislation and provide suggestions for further criminal justice reform. Our speakers will also share their personal struggles on behalf of their family member and themselves, describing how arrest, prosecution, incarceration and re-entry has had a devastating impact on individuals with IDD and their families. LRIDD and The Arc of Virginia have gained recognition for their work on these legislative reform issues and they will offer a blueprint for working successfully toward change.

[**Register here!**](#)

Webinar: Self-Directed Programs at Public Partnerships**Thursday, September 17 at 6 pm**

Presented by Public Partnerships, this webinar will give us an overview of each program at Public Partnerships. It will give us a better understanding of the Personal Preference Program (PPP) and explain in greater detail, the referral process.

[**Register here!**](#)

Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project - takes place every Tuesday at 2 pm.

The series covers a variety of topics related to self-advocacy and healthy living, and what you can do at home due to the current "stay at home" order. Live viewers can share comments and ask questions.

[**Register here!**](#)

Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE - takes place every Wednesday at 11 am

This is a new interactive series of Zoom events hosted by the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project (NJSAP). These are live, interactive events to promote healthy living for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Topics will relate to healthy living, and some events will feature guest speakers who will lend their expertise. Certain events will utilize supplies that NJSAP will send directly to your location, FREE OF CHARGE. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in real time. All webinars will be recorded and archived below to view after airing.

[**Register here!**](#)

A Message from The Arc of New Jersey



Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past few weeks, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with I/DD and their families, as well as our local county chapters, through the COVID19 crisis. To put your donation to work for individuals with I/DD and their families, [click here](#). If you have questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help. [Click here](#) to access information about our Programs.

Use Your Amazon App to Support The Arc of New Jersey

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support The Arc of New Jersey, Inc. in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.



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!

