



UPDATE FROM TRENTON

The Arc Advocates in Trenton on DSPs & legislation



The Arc of New Jersey advocated at the State House last month, along with fellow members of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, regarding the impacts a proposed \$15 minimum would have on the Direct Support Professional workforce. It is important for legislators to remember that providers are unable to pass along the cost of a higher minimum wage to consumers and so funding to accommodate an increase must come from the state. To continue reading, [click here](#).

The Arc Celebrates Honorees at Awards Dinner

The Arc of New Jersey celebrated 11 outstanding award winners at our Annual Dinner at the Imperia in Somerset on Thursday, October 18. This event gives us the chance to recognize remarkable self-advocates, family members, professionals, business community members and legislators. The Awards Dinner, which was attended by 150 people, was filled with beautiful, inspiring speeches and a wonderful group of winners. We thank everyone who came out and helped support this great evening. Pictured right is Executive Director Tom Baffuto with the Speaker of the Assembly Craig Coughlin and President Joanne Bergin. The full list of honorees is as follows:



- President's Award - **Primepoint LLC**
- Spirit of The Arc Award - **Carmen Bannon**
- Legislator of the Year - **Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin**
- Professional of the Year - **Melissa Soules**
- Healthcare Professional of the Year - **Linda O'Connell**
- Volunteer of the Year - **Shuffle**
- Employer of the Year - **Green Vision, Inc.**
- Bill Sackter Award - **James Storti**
- Distinguished Community Service - **Heather Childers**
- Community Inclusion Award - **Special Needs Alliance for Pride (SNAP)**
- Martin Papish Award - **Alice Siegel**



The Arc of New Jersey's Treasurer Pam Corrigan with James Storti and First Vice President Kevin Sturges



Executive Director Tom Baffuto with Alice Siegel and President Joanne Bergin



Executive Director Tom Baffuto with members of the Special Needs Alliance for Pride (SNAP) and President Joanne Bergin



Council 3 of the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network held their Annual Halloween Party on Tuesday, October 9, and celebrated with music, dancing and food. There were prizes awarded for the best costume and the Michael Jackson "Thriller" Dance Contest.

- Interested in learning more about Self-Advocacy? Visit their web site by clicking [here](#) or reach out to Ashley Ritchey, Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Program, at 732-743-8345 or ARitchey@arcnj.org.



The Arc of Ocean hosted their annual Step Up for The Arc Walk & Family Fun Day on Saturday, October 13 at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood. The Step Up For The Arc walks are an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county chapter.

Sibshops Give Siblings the Chance to Connect with Others

On Saturday, October 27, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute hosted a Sibshop at The Arc of Camden County in Berlin. Sibshops provide brothers and sisters of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to share and connect with peers who "get it." Attending a Sibshop allows siblings a chance to meet one another in a relaxed setting. Children

have the opportunity to participate in fun activities such as "Dear Aunt Blabby," and group discussions designed to help children express the joys and concerns of being a sibling of a child with special needs. Sibshops acknowledge that brothers and sisters of people with special needs, like their parents, may need support. Want more information about The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute? Then be sure to visit their web site by [clicking here](#).



Get Out the Vote Guide Now Available!



Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th. Before you head to the polls to elect a US Senator and a member of Congress who will represent your local district, make sure you check out our 2018 Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide. This publication is a great resource for families and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Inside you'll find important dates, information on how to register to vote and the process for voting by mail, as well as external resources you should explore in order to learn more. The Guide is now complete so click the photo to the left to download your copy today. Also, check out our [GOTV website](#) in advance of Election Day (November 6, 2018), for other voting resources and information.

Quick Voting Facts

- Voting starts at 6 am and ends at 8 pm
- This year's ballot asks voters to decide on a public question

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

Free IEP Reviews with the Attorneys of Hinkle, Fingles, Prior & Fischer, Attorneys at Law Monday, November 5

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 or Elizabeth Piston at (609) 896-4200 to reserve your time slot.**

Agenda: Know Your Rights: An overview 6 - 6:30 pm, 6:30 - 9 pm Individual IEP Review (1:1, 30 minute session)



Lunch & Learn Webinar Safety Series: Investigating and Prosecuting Financial Crimes Against People with I/DD Tuesday, November 6 at 12 pm

Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) can be vulnerable to financial

exploitation and fraud. Join us as Gloucester County Assistant Prosecutor Jacqueline Caban discusses financial crimes, what to look for and how to prevent you and/or your family member with I/DD from falling victim to economic crime.

Free Parent Forum and Opportunity Expo - Elizabeth
[Saturday, November 10 at 9 am](#)

These events are held throughout the state and consist of a Parent Forum that includes workshops (45-60 minutes) on specific topics including: support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help. The Opportunity Expo features a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support, recreation providers, and information & referral services. Families will have the chance to learn more about the resources in their communities and will also have the opportunity to speak with and interview potential service providers.

Webinar: The Importance of Wills and Trusts in Planning for a Secure Future
[Tuesday, November 13 at 6 pm](#)

It's never too early to start thinking about the importance of wills and estate planning. Join us as Hinkle, Fingles, Prior, and Fischer Attorneys at Law discuss the best way to plan for a secure future.

Webinar: We Are People! Labels Are For Soup Cans!
[Wednesday, November 14 at 6 pm](#)

This webinar will educate attendees on the negatives of using labels and how to overcome being labeled and bullied.

Webinar: Ethics & Safety - The Relationship Between Ethical Cultures and Safe Environments at Provider Agencies
[Thursday, November 15 at 2 pm](#)

Vincent Giardina, Advocate and Consultant, DDD, retired, will provide an overview of the relationship between caregiver and recipient, exploring the balance of power and the priority to ensure the health and safety of people with I/DD. Join us for this informative discussion about power and ethics and the ways in which agencies and staff can effectively provide healthy, appropriate supports.

College Tour: Mercer County College
[Friday, November 16 at 11 am](#)

Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of Mercer County Community College's DREAM program. Students and their families will have an opportunity to visit Mercer County Community College and learn about the different aspects of a college experience. The DREAM program is student-centered, which means that each student's course of study is determined by the student's goals and needs.

Areas of study include: Academic Experiences, Career Related Experiences, Independent Life Experiences, and Socialization Experiences.

Webinar: Important Information on the 2019 Medicare Part D Drug Plan Changes for the Dual Eligibles
[Friday, November 16 at 11 am](#)

Beginning on January 1, 2019, there will be some changes in Medicare Part D, the federal drug benefit that is used by most dual eligibles (persons who have both Medicaid and Medicare) to obtain their prescription medications. This webinar is for everyone who wants to know about Medicare Part D for the dual eligibles, including employees of provider agencies serving people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD), staff from DDD, family members, and health care professionals. The webinar will discuss the details of the changes and how they will affect individuals with developmental disabilities who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

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

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

