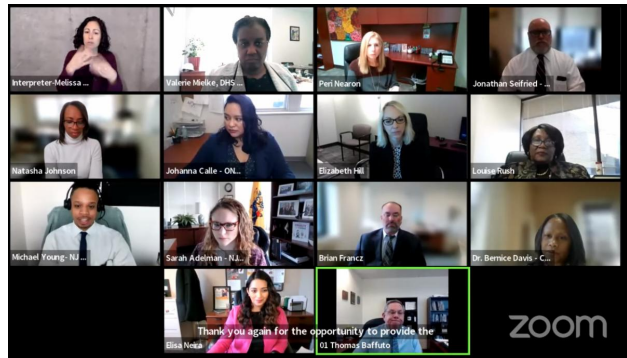




Advocacy in December Focused on Legislation & Fiscal Year '23 Budget Priorities

The Arc of New Jersey closed out 2021 with a tremendous amount of advocacy at the State House and we also provided input to the Administration regarding our organization's funding priorities for the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Right now, the Legislature is in the midst of lame duck, which means any bills that aren't signed into law by the end of the legislative session will need to be reintroduced in the new term. Throughout December we testified at a number of Senate and Assembly Committees on bills related to employment, transportation, postsecondary education for young adults with IDD, and special education. We are also very pleased that a bill (A5262/S3455) to change certain provisions of NJ WorkAbility passed in both Houses and is now on the Governor's Desk. [To continue reading, click here.](#)
(Pictured in the bottom row in on the right-hand side is The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto testifying at the December Department of Human Services Budget Listening Session.)



The Arc of NJ Welcomes New Information & Outreach Coordinator for Family Institute



In November, The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute welcomed Hannah Noel as the Coordinator of Information and Outreach. Hannah's role includes but is not limited to: providing information and referral services, communicating with the Family Institute Network and local Chapter family advocacy networks, monitoring trends and developments that affect the IDD community, and outreaching to families and individuals with IDD by hosting events and attending group meetings. Here we want to take the opportunity to learn more about Hannah's background and introduce her to our readers.

1. What attracted you The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute?

Prior to joining The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute, I had been completing a B.A. in sociology and working in the childcare field. Even though childcare is an essential career that can be incredibly fulfilling, my goal was always to grow from my place in that industry and into a role within the realm of social work. A strong interest in social movements and change is what guided me to seeking a career in advocacy. As a sociology major I studied society, human behavior, and individual interactions in groups, communities, organizations and various cultures while working directly with young children as a childcare teacher during a critical period of their lives, early childhood. During this time, I gained

valuable experience caring for children including those with intellectual disabilities. When I took on an administrative role within the daycare facility I was employed at, I began seeing from another perspective some of the challenges that families with young children with IDD were faced with when finding and sustaining adequate childcare but most importantly their strong need for support during their child's beginning years. This experience resonated with me. To continue reading, [click here.](#)

The Arc of NJ is Planning for the Future!

Every three years, the Board of Directors of The Arc of New Jersey prepares a strategic plan to guide the work of the organization. We are now in the process of preparing a new strategic plan for FY 2022-2025 and we want your input! We are soliciting your feedback to help us in the planning process. Please take a moment to complete a short survey which will assist us in planning for the future. To start the survey, [click here](#), or scan the QR Code. If you have any questions, please email Céline Fortin at cfortin@arcnj.org.



Grant for Healthy Lifestyles Project to Continue in 2022

The Arc of New Jersey would like to acknowledge and thank The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey for awarding our organization with a \$25,000 grant which will allow us to continue our Healthy Lifestyles Project in calendar year 2022. This is the 9th year we have received this incredibly generous funding. The [Health Lifestyles Project](#), which is geared toward helping adults with IDD learn how to leave a healthy life through diet, exercise, and stress management, is run by the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project. This grant from Horizon will enable us to continue our important work and we are grateful to them for their continued support.



The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey

The Arc of Monmouth Celebrates with Winter Glow Event



The Arc of New Jersey would like to congratulate The Arc of Monmouth County on their 2021 Winter Glow event held on December 3, at the Navesink Country Club. The event included dinner, dancing, live music, and an auction to benefit the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities served by the Chapter. Pictured from left to right is Philip Fina, Board Member at The Arc of Monmouth, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, The Arc of Monmouth's Board President Lauren Zalepka and The Arc of Monmouth's Executive Director Bob Angel.

Tell Your Senators: Pass the Build Back Better Act

On Friday, November 19th, the House of Representatives passed the Build Back Better Act ([H.R. 5376](#)) by a vote of 220-213. The House version includes many of The Arc's policy priorities including historic funding for home and community-based services, paid leave, reforms to Supplemental Security Income, education, housing, and much more. We need you to act now! Tell the Senate to Pass the Build Back Better Act. [Click here to take action.](#)



News You Can Use!



1. Last month, The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care Program distributed information about the coronavirus in light of the Omicron variant. Please [click here](#) to read the information which includes resources and links related to testing, boosters and other relevant news.
2. Updated fact sheets were sent out that explain what happens when individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) who receive **Medicaid** become eligible for Medicare too. When that happens these individuals are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits, and there are some changes

that occur. Click [here to read more](#)

Upcoming Virtual Events!



Click below to register for one of our many upcoming virtual events/webinars. And be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other future events.

Virtual College Tours:

- January 12 at 6 pm: [LACE program at Sussex County Community College](#)
- January 18 at 6 pm: [The Garden State Pathways Program at Camden County College](#)

Zoom With Us:

- January 11 at 6 pm: [My Student Just Turned 18 - What Do I Need to Do!](#)

Webinars:

- January 13 at 6 pm: [Special Education Series: Supporting Students with ADHD](#)
- January 19 at 6 pm: [Helping Your Child Build Employable Skills with Adam Kubler](#)
- January 20 at 2 pm: [What Do I Need to Know About: Domestic Violence Laws and the Disability Community - Part 2](#)

Stay Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project - every Tuesday at 2 PM on GoToWebinar

The webinar series covers a variety of topics related to advocacy, life skills, employment, and civic engagement. Sessions are designed to be accessible to self-advocates, parents, and support staff. Live viewers can share comments, ask questions, and access resources.

- January 4: [Financial Management & Budgeting for Self-Advocates](#)
- January 11: [REPLAY: Downsizing: How to Lower Your Carbon Footprint](#)
- January 18: [REPLAY: Managing Minutes for Productive People](#)
- January 25: [REPLAY: Resolutions to get Healthy](#)

Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE! - every Wednesday at 11 AM on Zoom

This interactive series of events is hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and focuses on activities to promote health and wellness education for students and adults with I/DD. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in activities led by professionals *in real time*.

- January 5: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- January 12: [Zumba: Dance-based Fitness Class](#)
- January 19: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- January 26: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)

We also have Fitness Fridays at 1 PM: [Click here to register.](#)

A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

Thank You

Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past number of months, 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](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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