



## Bills Move Forward, Details on FY21 Budget in Aug.

During the month of July, the Assembly took action on a number of bills which The Arc of New Jersey supports and which impact people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes:

- **A1155** - Requires NJT to operate Access Link paratransit service during state of emergency under certain circumstances. *(This bill received unanimous support and was sent to the Governor's Desk.)*
- **A3510** - Requires NJT to publish on website certain information concerning accessible transportation service routes. *(This bill received unanimous support in the Assembly and now must be heard by the Senate)*
- **A4138** - Requires Division of Human Services to develop public emergency response plan for licensed providers of services to individuals with developmental disabilities. *(This bill received unanimous support in the Assembly and now must be heard by the Senate)*



The Arc of New Jersey also reached out to numerous state lawmakers regarding new pieces of legislation that were introduced in response to COVID-19 and the ways in which it is impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and community provider agencies.

Also in July, Governor Murphy signed legislation to extended Fiscal Year 20 by three months. This means the current fiscal year will expire on September 30, 2020 as opposed to June 30, 2020. The Governor is scheduled to deliver his Budget Address on August 25, 2020 and The Arc of New Jersey will be communicating with stakeholders about the ways you can help our budget advocacy in the weeks ahead. The COVID-19 health crisis has had a tremendous and negative impact on state revenues and we will need to remain vigilant with our advocacy moving forward.

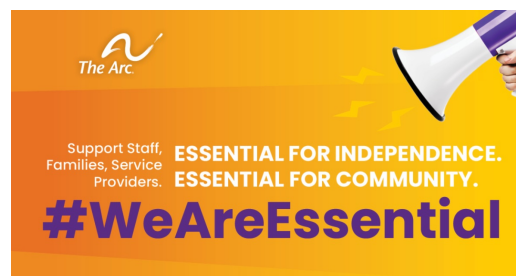
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## US Senators Must Support People with I/DD in the HEALS Act - #WeAreEssential

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 has passed legislation that includes many of our top asks – but the Senate has JUST 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!](#)



Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and the providers who support them have faced tremendous challenges during the COVID-19 health crisis. The Arc of New Jersey is honored to serve as a resource and point of support during these difficult times. Here is some of the wonderful feedback we've received.



#### The Arc of NJ Family Institute:

- *"Thank you for all the valuable information. I now have resources when parents have questions. I also appreciate you adding me to the email list."* -**Teacher**
- *"I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your time and attention. Thank You for listening to me and taking my concerns seriously. I am so thankful for the resources you have sent. I will look into each and every one. Thank You So Much! I am grateful I have you as a contact now. I just want my son to have people on his team that understand his needs and respect him."* -**Parent**

#### The New Jersey Self- Advocacy Project:

- *"NJSAP's Stay Healthy at Home webinars have been helpful to me because they are informative, timely, and I love to learn. I often share information and resources from NJSAP on my social media accounts with friends and family who also really appreciate the information. You are helping more people than you think outside the self-advocacy community. Keep up the great work!"* -**Self-Advocate**
- *"The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project has been a pillar of support for the DDD community well before COVID-19 began affecting services. However, since services have been drastically altered following the inception of the pandemic, the NJSAP team continues to deliver informational and interactive videos on their social media accounts to promote physical, mental, and emotional well-being. This content has allowed SCARC participants to remain connected and informed throughout the duration of social distancing. We are tremendously grateful for the important work that the New Jersey Self Advocacy Project does."* -**Community Provider**

#### Mainstreaming Medical Care

- *"I called you a few months back looking for assistance in navigating the process of getting Medicaid for my daughter now that my husband has retired. You took the time to speak with me. The information was very straightforward and valuable. My daughter has now been approved. We appreciate all your help!"* -**Parent whose daughter had recently been approved for Medicaid from the County.**
- *"Thank you so much for all your help today. I believe that I understand everything I have to do now. You are a lifesaver!"* -**Parent who was concerned about her son exceeding the Medicaid asset limit due to unemployment insurance**

#### Planning for Adult Life:

- *"I just wanted to tell you that Peter has stopped complaining about having to take part in the group. Not only that, I think he really does like it. I don't have to remind him to join in and then he sounds like he is sharing nicely when I pass his room. He can be very harsh and rude if he doesn't like something. Thank you so much, I didn't want to eavesdrop on the group if Peter was doing well and that seems to be the case. Please let me know if there are any issues you would like to let me know about."* -**Parent**

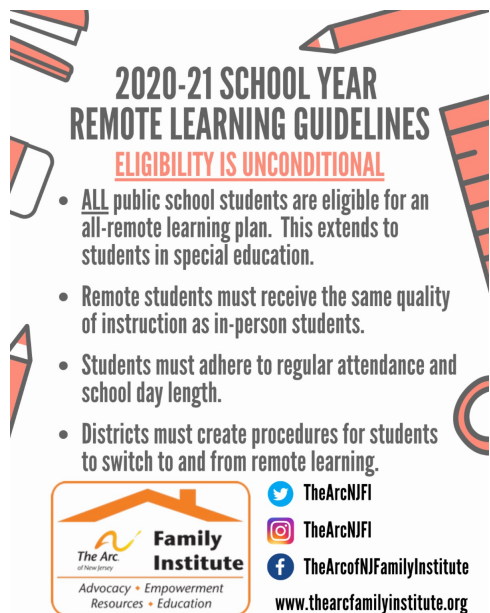
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## News You Can Use!

1. The Arc of NJ continues to post news and resources to our [COVID-19 Updates & Information page](#).
2. **Waiting List Info:** Annually, the Division of Developmental Disabilities mails out letters to individuals on the Community Care Program (CCP) Priority Waiting List providing them their ranking on that list. According to DDD's 7/23 webinar, these letters will be sent out in the coming weeks. [Click here](#) to view the webinar slides.
3. **DD Training Resources** is an online database, funded by a grant from The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities and run by The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute. It provides a wide range of information about trainings and support resources for individuals with I/DD and their families throughout the State of New Jersey.
4. If you haven't done so already, be sure to check out NJ Register Ready - New Jersey's Special Needs Registry for disasters which allows New Jersey residents with disabilities or access and functional needs, and their families, friends, caregivers and associates an opportunity to provide information to emergency response agencies so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergency. Click here to download the brochure in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).
5. The Arc US recently published new, free resources on the importance of voting, how to vote, and



## Resources for School and Census Participation



**2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR  
REMOTE LEARNING GUIDELINES**  
**ELIGIBILITY IS UNCONDITIONAL**

- **ALL** public school students are eligible for an all-remote learning plan. This extends to students in special education.
- Remote students must receive the same quality of instruction as in-person students.
- Students must adhere to regular attendance and school day length.
- Districts must create procedures for students to switch to and from remote learning.

**The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute**  
Advocacy • Empowerment  
Resources • Education

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**The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute** recently developed a helpful graphic for families to better understand the state's remote learning guidelines for the 2020-2021 school year. As parents determine what decision best suits their child and family, please feel free to reference this item, which you can download by clicking [here](#). Additional questions? Contact The Arc of NJ Family Institute at [fap@arcnj.org](mailto:fap@arcnj.org).



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**

## 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](mailto:jmaseko@arcnj.org)





On July 26, The Arc celebrated the 30th anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Arc is proud of our role in protecting the rights of people with disabilities, including as a significant player in the passage of the ADA. Consistent with our work for decades on policy development and legal efforts on key issues including deinstitutionalization, transforming state service systems, and ensuring that people with I/DD have access to education and life in the community, The Arc was committed to advancing the bill creating a national mandate for the elimination of discrimination on the basis of disability. From educating Congress and the public on the discrimination faced by people with disabilities and their families, helping to organize the grassroots, and supporting Congressional hearings and promotion on the Hill, The Arc was actively engaged in the fight for the ADA. State

and local Chapters of the Arc were integral to the movement. Through the tenacious advocacy of The Arc with our allies across the disability community, the bill passed with broad bipartisan support. To read the full blog post, [click here](#).

## 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.

### **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. To learn more, and to register for an upcoming webinar, [click 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.

[Click here](#) to register for an upcoming event.

## A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

# Thank You

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.



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## 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](mailto:info@arcnj.org) | [www.arcnj.org](http://www.arcnj.org)

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

