



UPDATE FROM TRENTON

The Arc Supports Legislation, Budget Priorities



In the month of January, The Arc of New Jersey weighed in on a number of bills making their way through the legislative process and continued to advocate for funding in the FY20 State Budget for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Department of Health held a Budget Listening Session and our organization testified before the Commissioner and high-ranking members of his team about early intervention services as well as treatment and transition of people with intellectual and developmental... (to continue reading, [click here.](#))

Send a Valentine's Day Card to the Governor

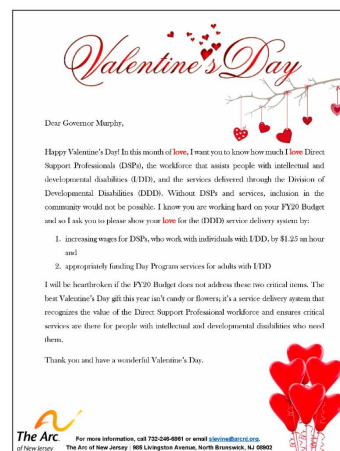
Governor Murphy is working now on the Fiscal Year(FY) 2020 State Budget and it's critical for him to hear from you about the impact of services and Direct Support Professionals in your life. We need the Governor to prioritize the service delivery system for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families and only your voice can make that happen.

STEPS FOR THE ACTION ALERT:

1. Download our Valentine's Day Card by [clicking here](#). Sign it, and if you can, personalize it with a message.
2. Mail the card to the Governor at the following address:

The Honorable Phil Murphy
Office of Governor
PO Box 001
Trenton, NJ 08625

To view the full action alert, [click here.](#)



DD Training Resources Website Now Live

DD Training Resources is a new online database, funded by a grant from The NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities and run by The Arc of New Jersey's Family Institute. The website, which you can access at DDTrainingResources.org, provides a wide range of information about trainings and support resources for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout the State of New Jersey. DD Training Resources includes information and archived resources originating from state service systems, community providers, advocacy organizations and community resources. The trainings, resources, local New Jersey event calendar, national event calendar, and archived materials address a number of areas including, but not limited to, accessing services, navigating systems, individual rights, advocacy tools and finding resources in the community. By providing information on all available sources of training, materials, advocacy and resources, we empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families so that they can address both immediate and long term issues. For an overview of DD Training Resources, please watch the short video below. To visit the site, [click here](#).



Families Launch Down Syndrome & Dementia Support Group



On January 14, The Asbury Park Press published an article on the front page of the paper titled, "[Down syndrome and dementia: Monmouth County families launching statewide support group.](#)" It includes interviews with three family members of adults with Down syndrome, and explains the enormous emotional toll on families if an individual

with Down syndrome is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Quoted in the report is The Arc of New Jersey's Mainstreaming Medical Care (MMC) Director Beverly Roberts as well as Leone Murphy, family member and Chair of the MMC Advisory Board, and her daughter Michelle. For further information on the statewide support group that is mentioned in this article, please contact Leone Murphy at leonemur2@yahoo.com or Jane Boyle at jboyle417@gmail.com.

Support The Arc with the Combined Federal Campaign

Military and federal employees are eligible to participate in the 2018 Combined Federal Campaign. This federal workplace giving tradition has raised more than \$8 billion since its beginning in 1961, making it the world's largest workplace giving campaign. Due to the government shutdown, the deadline to participate was extended through **February 22**. To pledge your workplace giving to The Arc of New Jersey, select The Arc of New Jersey (CFC #92741) from the charity list. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Registration for Self-Advocacy Luncheon Now Open



The 14th Annual "Spring Into Action" Luncheon will take place on Saturday, April 13, 2019 and registration is now open. The event, hosted by The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network includes an awards presentation, lunch and networking opportunities. This year's Luncheon will take place at The Imperia in Somerset from 10 am to 2 pm. The registration deadline is March 11, 2019 so make sure you reserve your tickets today by [clicking here](#). You can also register by mail. [Click here](#) to download the registration form.

Check Out These Upcoming Webinars & Events

Lunch & Learn Webinar Safety Series: Supporting the Village: Helping Parents and Caregivers to Support Youths' Healthy Sexual Development, a 3-part series

[Tuesday, Feb. 12, at 12 pm](#)

Part 1 - Kindergarten - 6th grade

As parents and caregivers, we worry about the health and wellbeing of our children. When we look through the lens of intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD), sometimes we get even more worried about lots of different things, like sex and sexuality. It can be difficult to know how or when to talk to children with I/DD about sex, particularly because we are afraid that they may be victimized. This 3-part webinar series is designed to increase parents' and caregivers' comfort in talking about sex and sexuality with their children. We will discuss the social, physiological, and emotional changes that happen before, during, and after puberty. We will provide tools and skills for parents and caregivers to support the development, independence, and success of their children.



Webinar: Understanding Fair Housing and Housing Discrimination

[Tuesday, Feb. 19, at 12 pm](#)

More and more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are choosing to live within the community and are using housing vouchers to do it! It's important that individuals with I/DD and their caregivers understand the Fair Housing system. Fair Housing is not an option, it's the law. The Fair Housing Act promotes integrated communities by making it illegal to discriminate against protected classes, which includes people with I/DD. Hosted by The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute and presented by Mariela Santana, Bilingual Community Educator at New Jersey Citizen Action, this webinar will discuss what the Fair Housing Act prohibits, what protected classes are and why it's an important law. This webinar will also be prerecorded in Spanish and archived on our website.

Webinar: Overview of Services from the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

[Wednesday, Feb. 20, at 6 pm](#)

As students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families begin to think about the transition from high school to adult life, they often wonder about what services are available in the adult world to support someone with I/DD to live as independently as possible. Join us for this informative webinar by Nkechi Ugoji, Senior Coordinator, Transition, Policy & Training for the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities as she discusses what DDD has to offer and how to plan for the transition to DDD services.

Webinar: Growth Through Opportunity: A Unique Way to Enhance Employment, Safety and Inclusive Communities

[Thursday, Feb. 21, at 2 pm](#)

Guest speaker Travis Akins, Founder and CEO of Growth Through Opportunity (GTO), will discuss the program he initiated in Texas "Growth Through Opportunity: A Unique Way to Enhance Employment, Safety and Inclusive Communities", which provides an opportunity for people with I/DD to work with their local law enforcement community. This one hour webinar will provide an overview of the all-in-one community and work relations program and the ongoing progress it has achieved.

College Tour: Adult Center for Transition (ACT) at Rowan College in Gloucester County

[Friday, Feb. 22 at 11 am](#)

Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Join The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute for a tour of the Adult Center for Transition (ACT) at Rowan College in

Gloucester County. ACT provides young adults with disabilities, the academic, vocational and socialization skills necessary to become independent and contributing members of society. During the tour you will have the opportunity to visit the school and speak with program staff to learn about the different aspects of the Center.

Community Health Law Project Awarded Grants



The Community Health Law Project was recently awarded two grants. One grant is from the US Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence in four southern New Jersey counties. The second is from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey and the purpose of the grant is to address the social determinants of health of vulnerable individuals experiencing severe and persistent mental illness, and to collect data and outcomes to better advocate for expanded funding for medical-legal partnerships with mental health and addiction agencies. For more information, [click here](#).

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!

