



The Arc Celebrates DD Awareness Month, Weighs in on FY22 Budget, Legislation



In March, The Arc of New Jersey celebrated Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month with two big events. Self-Advocates from the New Jersey Statewide Self Advocacy Network (NJSSAN) met virtually with Department of Human Services Commissioner Sarah Adelman and Senate President Steve Sweeney. The Commissioner presented Self-Advocates with a proclamation from the Governor and the Senate President bestowed a legislative resolution. Both items highlighted Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and the event gave Self-Advocates the opportunity to interact with two very important policy makers. On March 25, representatives from The Arc of New Jersey were recognized on the Senate floor with a

Joint Legislative Resolution, presented to our organization by the Senate President. The work of The Arc was praised by lawmakers as the resolution was presented. Board Member Pam Corrigan and her son Chris joined Executive Director Tom Baffuto (*all pictured left*) and Governmental Affairs Director Sharon Levine at the State House to receive this honor. To continue reading [click here](#).

Vaccine Eligibility Now Includes People with I/DD



The Arc of New Jersey is very happy to report that Governor Murphy is expanding vaccine eligibility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities over the age of 16, starting TODAY. The Arc of New Jersey has put a tremendous amount of work into achieving this outcome and we have kept significant pressure on the Governor's Office and members of the Administration to ensure people with I/DD were made a priority for vaccine eligibility. We have been pressing the need, to make

all people with I/DD eligible, with the Commissioners of Health and Human Services, as well as high-ranking members of both departments and the Governor's staff. We are very glad to see the Governor is taking action today in response to our advocacy and that people with I/DD will now be eligible for vaccination. To view more info, [click here](#). Also, be sure to visit The Arc of NJ's [vaccine page](#) for additional resources about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Accessibility Toolbar Added to The Arc Websites

To better serve those we represent, including visitors to our websites, [The Arc of New Jersey](#) recently added an accessibility toolbar which assists individuals navigating our web pages and providing them easier access to the resources and information we offer. The toolbar, which can be enabled from the top of our websites, is provided through Recite me. You can learn more about Recite me by [clicking here](#). The new toolbar allows website visitors to increase font sizes, change color schemes, and enable text to speech



Virtual Vigil to Honor Victims/Survivors with I/DD

Every April, since 1981, the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) in the US Department of Justice has designated a week to renew its commitment to serving all victims of crime. This theme this year is: "Support Victims. Build Trust. Engage Communities." This theme emphasizes the

importance of community and this year we wanted to ensure that the voices of people with disabilities are added to those of the victim/survivor community. Toward that end, The Arc of New Jersey will host a virtual vigil for victims of crime with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Wednesday, April 21, from 4 to 5 pm. The event will include remarks from professionals and victims, music and a candle lighting ceremony to honor victims/survivors of violent crime who are people with developmental disabilities. We will also honor State Senate Majority Leader Loretta Weinberg for her career-long support of both people with I/DD and the victim/survivor community. To view the agenda for the event, [click here](#). To register to attend the Virtual Vigil, [click here](#).



Families Give Feedback to Caregiver Task Force



As an appointed member to the New Jersey Caregiver Task Force, The Arc of New Jersey continues to engage with families across the state to learn more about the challenges facing caregivers and the ways in which New Jersey can better serve and support these individuals. Caregivers had the opportunity to provide testimony to members of the Task Force during three virtual listening sessions that took place last month. (To view the hearings, hosted by the Department of Human Services, [click here](#).) In addition, a caregiver survey will be distributed in the coming weeks that will allow those impacted to provide feedback to the Task Force

members. To learn more about the Task Force and its responsibilities, [click here](#). (Photo caption: *Pictured in the middle box is The Arc of New Jersey's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin.*)

Save the Date for June Medical Care Conference

The Arc of New Jersey's 31st Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities will be held virtually on **Thursday, June 10th and Friday, June 11th**. The conference will run from 9 am to 12 pm on both dates. The Conference is for everyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with I/DD. This includes health and mental health professionals, administrative and direct care staff, family members, social workers HMO representatives and employees of the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Children and Families, and Health. Registration information will be available soon so be sure to mark your calendars for this outstanding event. Click the image to the right to view the Save the Date.



Self-Advocacy Spring Luncheon Goes Virtual



and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network work together to host the annual [Spring Into Action Awards Luncheon](#). The event is an opportunity for Self-Advocates and allies to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and celebrate the accomplishments of Self-Advocates over the past year. This year, the Spring Into Action Luncheon will take place virtually on Saturday, April 17, 2021. Registration is free with options to donate. Please [click here](#) to register.

Support The Arc of NJ with Stop & Shop's Community Bag & Giving Tag Program



The Arc of New Jersey was recently selected by leadership at a local Stop & Shop store as the benefiting non-profit in the Community Bag Program! For the month of April 2021, The Arc of New Jersey will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase of the \$2.50 reusable Community Bag at the Stop & Shop store located at **24 Summerfield Boulevard, Dayton NJ**. The Stop & Shop Community Bag is a durable, reusable shopping tote that makes it easy for you to contribute to your local community. After purchasing your bag, follow the instructions on the Giving Tag within 7 days of purchase: Visit MyStopandShopCause.com, enter your tag's unique scratch off code and choose The Arc of New Jersey from the list of non-profits. If you don't see The Arc of New Jersey listed, you can submit it right there on the form!

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.

Webinars:

- April 15 at 2 pm: [Sex offender registry, sexually violent predator laws and collateral consequences as they related to people with I/DD](#)
- April 19 at 1 pm: [WCAG & Newsela Webinar](#)

FREE Virtual IEP Reviews:

- Available on: [April 12 & April 15 at 6 pm](#)

Virtual College Tours:

- April 7 at 6 pm: [The Garden State Pathways \(GSP\) Program at Camden County College](#)
- April 8 at 6 pm: [The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College](#)

Zoom with Us:

- April 15 at 6 pm: [A Step by Step Process to Applying for NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities Eligibility](#)

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.

- April 6: [REPLAY: Internet Safety for Students & Adults with I/DD](#)
- April 13: [Sage Advice: Tips for Self-Advocacy Group Advisors](#)
- April 20: [Sexual Violence and People with Disabilities: What It Is & What We Can Do About It](#)
- April 27: [Creating Safe Spaces: Digital & Personal Boundaries](#)

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*.

- April 7: [SproutFlix: Movie Screening & Discussion](#)
- April 14: [Food for Thought: Kale Pesto Recipe](#)
- April 21: [Using Art to Convey Emotion and Communication](#)
- April 28: [Look Who's Dancing: Inclusive Dance Class](#)

NEW 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 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!

