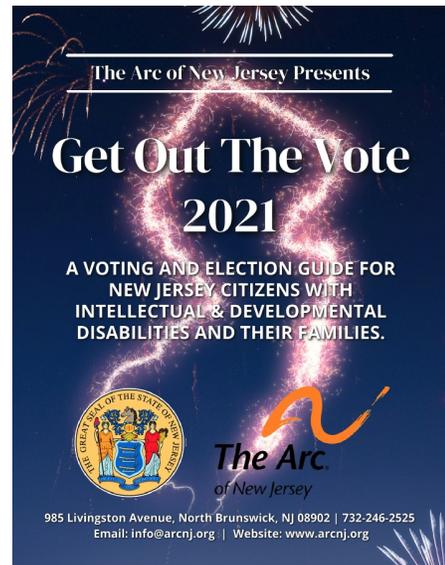




## 2021 Get Out the Vote Guide Available Now!

Every year, The Arc of New Jersey publishes a Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Guide to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families navigate the voting process. The Guide outlines the various ways to vote (in-person, by mail or via secure drop-box!), highlights important deadlines and dates of importance and includes a Q&A with the gubernatorial candidates about issues impacting people with IDD and their families. As we approach Election Day (November 2, 2021), we encourage you to download a copy of the Get Out the Vote Guide and familiarize yourself with the ways in which you can make your voice heard at the ballot box. This year, voters should be aware of rules related to mask wearing at the polls as well as early-voting which takes place the final week of October. Additionally, the Guide offers you insights about the gubernatorial race and the Self-Advocate and family perspective about why it's important to vote. Visit our voting web site, [www.gotvnj.org](http://www.gotvnj.org), to download a copy of the Guide and to access additional resources and information.



## Webinar Explores What Employers Need to Know to Hire People with Disabilities



The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto moderated a panel discussion, hosted by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association, that focused on employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The webinar, entitled "Hiring People with Disabilities - What Employers Need to Know," took place on Friday, September 24. Wesley Anderson, The Arc of New Jersey's Director of Training & Consultation, provided important tips and insights for employers to help them attract workers with disabilities and to make the hiring process more seamless. Additional

panelists included Nicole Engel, Case Manager at InspiriTec, Inc., Roxanne Borah, People Lead at Walmart, Best Buddies International State Director Matthew Fernandes and state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services program specialists Cheryl Casciano, Marc Schweitzer, and Jennifer Veneziani. Increasing employment opportunities for people with IDD remains a top priority for The Arc of New Jersey and we thank NJBIA for hosting this important conversation. To view the webinar, [click here](#).

## Senior Director of Income Policy Talks SSI, COVID

Director Beverly Roberts was joined by Bethany Lilly, Senior Director of Income Policy from The Arc of the United States, for a recent webinar focusing on the Supplemental Security Income Program. The presentation, entitled: "The Impact of the COVID pandemic on Social Security benefits for persons with IDD," can be viewed [here](#) for anyone who may have missed it. A big thank you to Bethany for sharing her insights and knowledge with our attendees.



## Act Now: Share Your Story About the Importance of HCBS



For more than 70 years, The Arc has been fighting for people with disabilities to live independently with the right supports and lead the same kind of life as everyone else. They released the above video to explain the importance of Medicaid and the ongoing HCBS advocacy in Washington. Learn more at <https://thearc.org/medicaidcantwait/>



The Arc of New Jersey met with congressional offices to discuss the Better Care Better Jobs Act, the needed investment in Home and Community Based Services and updates to SSI, as part of August Recess. Pictured above, The Arc of NJ meets with Jake Freed from Congressman Pallone's office.

Congress is currently working on legislation, as part of the budget reconciliation, or Build Back Better Agenda, that will greatly affect the lives of people with disabilities and their families. Urge your members of Congress to meet the needs of people with disabilities, their families, and the direct care workforce by investing in Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) to expand access to those services and create more and better direct care jobs. [Click here to Share Your Story: Why Home and Community-Based Care Matters.](#)

## SCARC Guardianship Exec Honored with Ann Klein Award

The Arc of New Jersey congratulates Megan MacMullin, ESQ, who received the 2021 Ann Klein Advocate award from the Community Health Law Project. Megan is the Chief Executive Office of SCARC Guardianship Services. The 33rd Ann Klein Advocate Awards reception was held on September 22, at The Wilshire Grand Hotel in West Orange. Pictured from left to right is SCARC President and Chief Executive Officer Richard Lecher, SCARC Chairperson Darlene Blandina, The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Megan MacMullin, and SCARC immediate-Past Chairperson Andy Sharick. To read more about Megan and her outstanding work on behalf of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, [click here](#).





## Governor Murphy & DHS Highlight Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week

Governor Murphy and the Department of Human Services highlighted the hard work and dedication of the state's Direct Support Professional workforce with a Proclamation declaring September 12 through September 18 as DSP Recognition Week. [For more information, click here](#) and click the image to the left to view the proclamation.

## News You Can Use!

1. The DAC flyer, which was developed several years ago by the NJ Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), has just been revised, and it is posted on the Division's website. The newly revised DAC flyer contains important information for families and staff (including support coordinators) to keep in mind, when individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). For more information on this, [click here](#).
2. The Arc of New Jersey's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin will present at ASPEN's upcoming virtual parent conference on October 24. The presentation will focus on SSI and Medicaid. For more information and to register, [click here](#).
3. The NJ Department of Health Commissioner, Judith Persichilli, has issued a statement on the availability of COVID booster shots for individuals who received the Pfizer vaccine at least six months ago. [Click here](#) to learn more about whether you or a loved one with IDD meet the criteria for a booster shot.

**Disabled Adult Children (\$1634 DAC)**

**Eligibility Group Requirements:** An individual who was receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits and who meets the following:

- Is at least 18 years of age;
- Has blindness or a disability which began before the age of 22;
- Has been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) based on blindness or disability; and
- Has not received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) due to the receipt of Social Security benefits on a parent's record due to the retirement, death or disability of a parent.

\*If the person meets all of the above criteria, they may qualify as a Disabled Adult Child under Section 1634 of the Social Security Act (repealed DMG). This designation comes from the Social Security Administration. Eligibility for Medicaid may continue as long as the person is determined blind or disabled. However, if the person receives income from another source or exceeds the resource limits, they may become ineligible for Medicaid coverage.

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**What should an individual do if they lose their SSI benefits and Medicaid coverage because they are now receiving Social Security Disabled Adult Child (DAC) benefits, resulting in their income exceeding the SSI income limit?**

You should have received a letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) verifying that you may continue to be eligible for Medicaid coverage under this eligibility group (\$1634 DAC). If you have not received this letter, or so long as you have this letter, contact your Social Security Representative. You can call 800-772-1233 (available Monday - Friday from 9am - 7pm) to request a Benefit Award letter verifying Social Security benefits as a Disabled Adult Child or Disabled Dependent Child who received SSI in the past.

## 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.



### College Tours:

- October 13 at 6 pm (virtual): [The Dream Program at Mercer County Community College](#)
- October 27 at 6 pm (virtual): [Keep Achieving \(Kach\) at Brookdale Community College](#)

### Zoom with Us:

- October 14 at 6 pm: [Public Policy and Advocacy](#)

### Webinars:

- October 7 at 6 pm: [Special Education Series: Stay Put and Emergency Relief Under S3434](#)
- October 12 at 12 pm: [The Children's System of Care, Developmental Disabilities Eligibility and Functional Services](#)
- October 20 at 1 pm: [Making the Future More Secure for Your Loved One with Special Needs](#)
- October 20 at 6 pm: [Helping Your Student Prepare for College](#)
- October 21 at 2 pm: [What Do I Need to Know About: Domestic Violence Laws and the Disability Community](#)
- October 28 at 6 pm: [Special Education Series: Advocating for Your Child and Their Education](#)

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.

- October 5: [How to Hear “You’re Hired!”: Tips for Job Searching](#)
- October 12: [REPLAY: The Picture Perfect Filter: Using Facebook & LinkedIn to Find Work](#)
- October 19: [REPLAY: STRIVE Creating Safe Spaces: Digital & Personal Boundaries](#)
- October 26: [REPLAY: You’re Hired! Preparing for Post-COVID Employment](#)

### 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*.

- October 6: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- October 13: [Music to My Ears: A Collaborative Song-Writing Session](#)
- October 20: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- October 27: [Halloween Party & Tricks for Healthy Treats](#)

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

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## 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.

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## 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](#)

[DONATE NOW!](#)

STAY CONNECTED



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