



The Arc's Advocacy Leads to DSP, Day Program Funds in FY21 Budget



Governor Murphy delivered his annual Budget Address last week and we're very happy to report that the proposed State Fiscal Year '21 Budget includes funding to address two very important issues for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities:

- **wages for Direct Support Professionals and**
- **Day Program Rates.**

Specifically, the Governor's proposed budget includes:

- **\$42 million** (state and federal dollars) toward DSP wages to keep these workers' wages ahead of the rising minimum wage.
- **\$20 million** (state and federal dollars) to address day program rates. Right now, providers do not receive

any payment when a person is absent from their day program. This funding recognizes the financial effects of absences and helps to address the issue so providers can continue to provide quality services to people with I/DD.

The Arc of New Jersey thanks all of the family members, self-advocates and Local County Chapters who were a pivotal part of our advocacy efforts. Whether it was participating in action alerts, speaking to elected officials, attending events at the State House, or educating members of the Administration on why these issues are so important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Pictured above: Executive Director Tom Baffuto testifies before the Senate Budget Committee on February 13, in support of increased funding in the FY20 Budget to address Direct Support Professional wages.

Cadets Graduate from Growth Through Opportunity



The first five cadets to participate in the Growth Through Opportunity (GTO) program celebrated their graduation from the 16-week experience during a ceremony, held at the Monmouth County's Prosecutor Office in Freehold, New Jersey on February 12. The GTO program gives job skills training in law enforcement agencies to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The goal is for cadets to graduate the program with transferable job, life and social skills. The program also aims to strengthen personal safety, confidence and community connectivity for participants while enhancing disability awareness in the community with members of law

enforcement. Attorney General Grewal and Monmouth County Prosecutor Gramiccioni spoke at the graduation ceremony where cadets were recognized for this incredible accomplishment. For more information about the GTO program, contact Project HIRE Director Adam Kubler at AKubler@arcnj.org. To read press from the GTO event, visit the following links:

- [NJ program that gives law enforcement training to those with special needs graduates first class](#)
- [Cadets with special needs graduate from police training in New Jersey](#)
- [NJ police internship for special needs adults sends off first class](#)
- ['You're part of our family': Cadets with disabilities complete work with Monmouth cops](#)
- [Special needs cadets complete law enforcement training in Monmouth County](#)



Pictured top: Cadets hold up their graduation certificates and pose with Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni, left, and Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, right. Pictured Bottom: The Arc of NJ's Project HIRE Director Adam Kubler, Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal, The Arc of NJ's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Director Jessica Oppenheim and Executive Director Tom Baffuto.



Pictured above, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal speaks to The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto about the Growth Through Opportunity Program at the graduation ceremony on February 12, in Freehold, New Jersey.

The Arc of NJ to Host Big Spring Events

The 15th Annual
Spring Into Action Luncheon
will take place on

Saturday,
April 18th, 2020
10:00AM - 2:00PM

LOCATION:
The Imperia
1714 Easton Ave.,
Somerset, NJ 08873

Register online at www.njselfadvocacyproject.org
OR
Register by filling out the form on the reverse side

NJSAP@ArcNJ.org / 732-749-8514 / www.njselfadvocacyproject.org
The event is hosted by:

**New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project
&
Statewide Self-Advocacy Network**
A program of The Arc of New Jersey since 1983
Promoting Advocacy and Independence for People
with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

In April, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project will hold their annual Spring into Action Luncheon at the Imperia in Somerset. Hundreds of advocates

Save the Date

The Arc of New Jersey's
31st Annual Conference on Medical and Dental Care
For Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

The Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village
Princeton, NJ

Friday, May 29, 2020

Conference brochures will be available
in March 2020!

Exhibitor and Contributor opportunities available!

This conference provides an excellent opportunity
to publicize your health-related products or services
for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

For further information, please contact Jennifer Lynch at:
conference@arcnj.org / 732.784.6397

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The Mainstreaming Medical Care Conference will take place at the end of May at the Westin Princeton at Forrestal Village. The conference is

from across the state attend this annual event which includes food, networking and an awards celebration. [Click here](#) to register.

intended for anyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Click the image above for more details.

Chapter Spotlight: The Arc of Gloucester County

Jake Jones assumed the role of Executive Director at The Arc Gloucester this month. We welcome him to The Arc family and we look forward to getting to know him better as we highlight his arrival and his plans for the months ahead.



1. Tell us a little bit about your background and your previous work with people with I/DD?

My experience includes developing community programs that support children, adolescents, and adults with (I/DD), as well as, those with co-occurring mental health and behavioral challenges. I have a lot of experience training direct care professionals, as well as, Teachers, and Administrators in public schools that support individuals who live in community settings. I gave this training support while serving in a consultation role as a Master Trainer of therapeutic verbal intervention and non-aversive physical restraints. In addition I worked (for two years) as an Executive Director (in my previous role) for a community provider of Residential and Day Programs in South Jersey; serving individuals with (I/DD) in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, and Gloucester counties. To continue reading, [click here](#).

Learn More About the 2020 Census



The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project is presenting a brand [new training on the Census](#). Every 10 years, everyone in the United States is counted through the census. It is important that everyone is counted because the census data impacts many key things like how much money state and local governments get for Medicaid, housing vouchers, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and education programs. Census data is also used to determine how many representatives each state gets in the House of Representatives. Check out our [census page here](#). Our efforts on

the census were also highlighted by NJ 101.5 which you can read [here](#).

Celebrating DD Awareness Month

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and Self-Advocates from across the State will travel to the State House next month to raise awareness among legislators and decision-makers about the issues impacting people with I/DD. The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project also hosted a bulletin board contest and we'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate this year's winners:

1st Place - The Arc of Warren County (pictured right)

2nd Place - SCARC

3rd Place - The Arc of Essex County

This was a great opportunity for Self-Advocates at local county Chapters to celebrate this important occasion and incorporate this year's theme of "Our Time to Shine."

For more information about DD Awareness Month, [click here](#).



Share Your Thoughts with the NJ Future of Work Task Force

Technology will continue to change the way we work, the skills we

need, and the types of jobs available - the New Jersey State Future of Work Task Force needs to **hear from you** to understand your hopes and concerns about the impact of technology on the future of work in the Garden State.

Share your thoughts via a brief online survey and help shape New Jersey State policy on how to best address the workforce and workplace challenges of tomorrow.

Make your voice heard today! Participate now at <https://www.smarter.nj.gov/fow>.

ORGANIZED BY THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY FUTURE OF WORK TASK FORCE

Take a College Tour With Us!



Calling all students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families!

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute invites you and your student to tour the different college programs offered throughout the state for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Spring 2020 Tour Dates: (More dates coming soon!)

Wednesday, March 11 at 11 am - College Steps Program at Kean University

Friday, March 20 at 10 am - The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College

Thursday, April 2 at 1 pm - Mercer County College DREAM Program

[Click here](#) to see more information and to register for one of the tours. These events are **FREE** but you need to register to attend.

Upcoming Webinars & Events!



Register today for one of the many events hosted by The Arc of New Jersey. Looking for more? Check out our [calendar](#).

Webinar: Overview of Medicaid for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Thursday, March 12 at 12 pm

This webinar will provide an overview of several ways that individuals with I/DD can be eligible for Medicaid, and will answer these questions:

- How can an individual with I/DD continue to have Medicaid when there is a change in Social Security benefits (from SSI to SSDI) because of the retirement, disability, or death of a parent?
- What happens if an individual with I/DD (who never received SSI) is receiving a Social Security benefit from the parent's work record which is too high to qualify for any of the regular NJ Medicaid categories?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of NJ WorkAbility for individuals with I/DD who are employed?
- What is the difference between Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) and other types of Medicaid?

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Recognizing How Court's Can Misinterpret Autism in the Trial Process Thursday, March 19 at 2 pm

Recognizing how court's can misinterpret Autism in the trial process with Professor Heather Cucolo, Esq., who will discuss relevant matters related to the trial process when a defendant or witness has Autism including the potential lack of experts and jury selection questions.

[Register here!](#)

Webinar: Empowering Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities to Discuss Support Needs

Tuesday, March 24 at 6 pm

Talking openly with your loved one about his or her disability in an positive way is so important. The way in which you approach this subject will have a lasting impact on your loved one's self-confidence and comfort level discussing the topic. This webinar will provide a framework for families to discuss their loved one's abilities with them, as well as explore ways for children and adults with disabilities to learn how to communicate their support needs with staff, teachers, and employers.

[Register here!](#)

The Arc of New Jersey's Planning for Adult Life Hosts Free Transition Planning Conferences

These events are held throughout the state and consist of Parent Workshops that include:

- an opening session on planning for transition;
- a keynote presentation on SSI and Medicaid;
- workshops (45-60 minutes) on specific topics including: support coordination, the continuum of community services, financial planning, eligibility requirements, and where to find help.

It also features a variety of exhibitors including: state and county government entities, community service providers, service coordinators, local health care support, recreation providers, and information & referral services. Families will have the chance to learn more about the resources in their communities and will also have the opportunity to speak with and interview potential service providers.

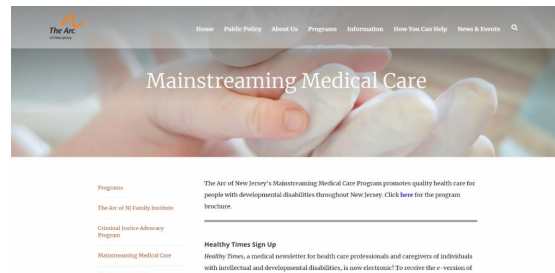
Saturday, March 28 (Passaic County) - [click here to register](#)

Saturday, April 4 (Middlesex County) - [click here to register](#)

Saturday, May 2 (Monmouth County) - [click here to register](#)

How to Prevent Respiratory Illnesses, Including the Coronavirus

There has been much information in the media in the past few days about the coronavirus in the United States and so we are providing [this notice](#) with some basic information that may be helpful for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, and direct support professionals (DSPs). Please feel free to share this notice with others who may also be interested.



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

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[DONATE NOW!](#)

