

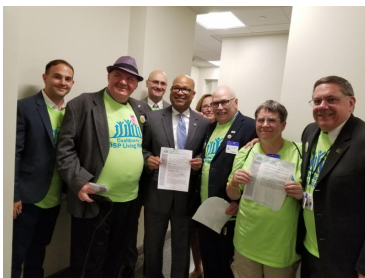


GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

Final Budget Includes \$20 million for DSPs



After a prolonged back and forth between the Governor and the Legislature, a FY19 Budget was signed late last night and it includes a \$20 million line item for Direct Support Professionals. Although this funding is less than what we were advocating for, we are happy that the needs of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities remained a priority to our elected officials. To continue reading, [click here](#). Photos left and below are from the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage's Advocacy Day at the State House which was held on June 21.



Advocates pictured here with Assemblyman Wimberly.



Advocates stand ready at the State House!



Coalition Chair Tom Baffuto gives opening remarks to attendees.

The Arc Hosts Advocacy Summit on Sexual Abuse

For decades, The Arc of New Jersey has worked to enact policy to protect people with intellectual and developmental disabilities from sexual abuse, and to educate the public so that they become our partners in keeping people safe. We have also developed



programs for people with I/DD to educate and support them, and reduce their risk of being a victim. Recently, [NPR published a series](#) focusing on sexual abuse of people with I/DD and the rates of abuse that they reported are staggering. In our continued efforts to prevent further abuse from occurring, The Arc of New Jersey hosted a Leadership Summit to bring stakeholders together in order to brainstorm real solutions for addressing this important issue. The Summit to Address Sexual Offenses Against People with I/DD: Blueprint for an Empowered Future, took place on June 14th at the New Jersey Law Center and included remarks from

Leigh Ann Davis, Criminal Justice Initiatives Director from The Arc US, and James Meadours, self-advocate and social activist. The Arc of New Jersey will now work to author a blueprint for change that will identify ways to educate our community and prevent further victimization. NPR reporter Joe Shapiro, who authored the original series on this issue, attended our Summit and published the following: [States Aim to Halt Sexual Abuse of People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](#). The Arc of New Jersey is grateful to the New Jersey Council on Developmental Disabilities for contributing funds toward this important event.

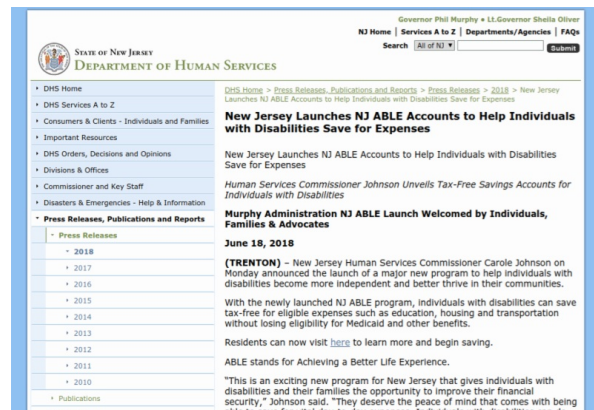
The Arc of Essex Talks Preexisting Conditions with US Senator



The Arc of Essex County's Executive Director Linda Lucas and the Chapter's Board President Marnie McNany participated in a roundtable conversation about recent threats to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with US Senator Bob Menendez in June. The event aimed to highlight the potentially harmful impacts of the Justice Department's recent court filing that announced the Department would no longer defend certain provisions of the ACA, including the provision that protects consumers with preexisting conditions. This could be harmful to some individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The event was an opportunity to keep people with I/DD included in the conversation as these and other healthcare related decisions are made on the federal level. Marnie did an outstanding job sharing her story as a mom to Mary, her 16-year-old daughter who has Down syndrome. Linda and Marnie are pictured left with Senator Menendez at the roundtable event which was held at Clara Maas Medical Center.

NJ Launches ABLÉ Accounts to Help People Save

The New Jersey Department of Human Services announced the launch of the NJ ABLÉ program to help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities save for expenses without jeopardizing their eligibility for entitlement programs like Medicaid. The Department issued a press release with additional details that you can read by [clicking here](#). The release includes quotes about the launch from DHS Commissioner Johnson, individuals with I/DD, a family member and The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto. The Arc of New Jersey supported legislation to create ABLÉ accounts in New Jersey and we are pleased to see this important savings tool is now available to people living in the Garden State.



Chapters Step Up For The Arc 2018

The Step Up For The Arc walks are over for the season but will resume in the fall. These events are an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by every county chapter. It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Make sure to [check out this page](#) for details about an upcoming walk near you!



The Arc of Somerset County's event on June 2, at Duke Island Park in Bridgewater.



The Arc of Salem County's event on June 3, at Riverview Beach Park in Pennsville.



The Arc of Bergen & Passaic's event on June 3 at Olsen Park in Bogota.



The Arc of NJ Celebrates Special Olympics Athletes

The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to participate in the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games last month. Tom is pictured here, left, with Senate President Steve Sweeney and Special Olympics New Jersey Chief Program Development Officer Carmen Bannon.

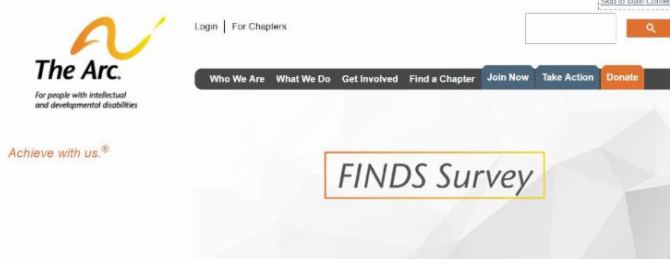


Executive Dir. Gives Update at Salem's Annual Meeting

The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to be at The Arc of Salem County's Annual meeting last month. Pictured here is The Arc of Salem's Executive Director Patty Irwin, Board President Jean Jack and Tom Baffuto. Tom spoke about The Arc of New Jersey's ongoing work to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals and provided legislative policy updates as well as news regarding the service delivery system's shift to fee-for-service.

FINDS Survey Sheds Light on the Caregiving Experience

In 2017, The Arc launched the Family & Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS) survey, to assess the state of caregivers of individuals with



intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in the United States. The survey, conducted by The University of Minnesota's Institute on Community Integration in collaboration with The Arc, and resulting Community Report, shed light on the experiences of families who provide supports to a family

member with I/DD, and is a follow up to the first FINDS survey, conducted in 2010 and released in 2011. To read the report, [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

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