

**6 ANNUAL
2 REPORT
0 TO THE
2 DELEGATES**

President's Message

Lauren Zalepka



My first year as President has passed more quickly than I could have imagined. Over the past year, I have had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the extraordinary work taking place at The Arc of New Jersey. I am continually inspired by the dedication of our staff and volunteers, and deeply impressed by all that they have accomplished.

I am especially inspired by our self-advocates—leaders whose voices, determination, and lived experiences are at the heart of everything we do. Their courage and commitment continue to move our mission forward and strengthen our impact every day.

As I reflect on this first year, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your support and your commitment to our mission. While we face challenges today—and know there are more ahead—it is this shared commitment that drives us forward. Together, we will meet these moments with strength, purpose, and an unshakable belief in the value, dignity, and voice of every person we serve.

I hope you will continue to stand with me and with The Arc of New Jersey as we push forward, strengthen our advocacy, and build an even more inclusive future in the year ahead.

Activities of the Board

- 5 Executive Committee meetings, 4 Board of Directors meetings and an Annual Meeting of Delegates
- Board Policies revised, reviewed and approved
- Represented The Arc of NJ at The Arc of the U.S. National Convention and Disability Policy Seminar
- Regular meetings of all Committees: Governmental Affairs, Internal, Audit, Investment, Family Advisory Council and Healthcare Advisory Board
- Reviewed and approved a new Strategic Plan for FY27-29
- Conducted a search for a new Executive Director



Board of Directors 2026

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Lauren Zalepka, President
Marnie McNany, First Vice President
Karen Santiago, Second Vice President
Pamela Corrigan, Treasurer
Andy Sharick, Secretary

Kevin Sturges, Immediate Past President

Members at Large

Ruby Goyal-Carkeek
S. Paul Prior
Charles Pinto
Kathy Mullery
Jennifer Mudd
Joanne Bergin

Executive Directors' Message

Céline Fortin



The past year has been a time of extraordinary change. In November New Jersey elected Mikie Sherrill as Governor. I was privileged to be invited to sit on the Governor's Interdisciplinary Transition Taskforce and take part in discussions which would contribute to her policy priorities. New cabinet members were appointed and we welcomed Dr. Stephen Cha as Commissioner of the Department of Human Services. His expertise in the area of Medicaid and community health will serve our constituents well.

A longtime, strong advocate and family member, Lauren Zalepka was elected president of The Arc of New Jersey at last year's Annual Meeting. She hit the ground running, representing The Arc at a press conference with Congressman Frank Pallone and in meetings with Senator Andy Kim and the senior staff of New Jersey's Congressional delegation. And our longtime Executive Director Tom Baffuto retired in June after more than 40 years with the organization, 26 of which were as Executive Director. Tom's impact on the developmental disabilities community was extraordinary and will have a lasting impression for decades to come.

In October I was honored and humbled to accept the position of Executive Director. The Board of Directors has placed a great deal of trust in me to lead the organization into its next chapter and I will do everything in my power to warrant that trust. This role is a privilege and responsibility I do not take lightly. I am inspired by the vision and mission we share, and energized by the incredible talent and dedication of The Arc community. Together, we will build on our successes and continue to have a meaningful impact. And though there are many challenges ahead, with the commitment of each of you, we will meet those challenges and renew our commitment to excellence.

I want everyone to meet each day with the same inspiration I do – that people with IDD matter, that The Arc matters and that YOU are key to our vision becoming reality.

Let's dream boldly and act bravely.

Let's shape the future—together.



The Arc of NJ Team

Leadership

Céline Fortin, Executive Director

Michael Prendergast, Associate Executive Director

Lisa Ford, Assistant Executive Director, Programs & Services

Budget Advocacy

Throughout the Fall and Spring of FY26, The Arc of NJ advocated with members of the Administration and the Legislature to ensure critical priorities received needed funding in the final State Budget. During this period, we reached out to offices on both sides of the aisle and both branches of government to educate decision-makers. We testified at both the Senate and Assembly Budget Committee hearings, mobilized the grassroots with calls to action, and met one-on-one with lawmakers. In response to our advocacy, the final FY26 State Budget included many of The Arc of NJ's priorities. This includes:

- Increased wages for DSPs ahead of the state minimum wage increase.
- Funding to move 318 people off the Waiting List.
- Reinstated funding for The Arc of Monmouth's Primary Care Center.
- Reinstated funding for The Arc of NJ's Planning for Adult Life Program.

Leading up to the Governor's FY27 Budget Address, The Arc of NJ:

- Weighed in at several departmental budget listening sessions.
- Outreached to the new Governor and all of the relevant Commissioners.
- Published an action alert encouraging people to weigh in with Governor Sherrill.
- Met with representatives of the Governor's Office and the Department of Treasury.

In the Governor's proposed FY27 Budget, we successfully advocated for:

- \$145 million in new money for the DD system to help serve new people entering the system and account for annual growth. In addition, a portion of that funding will go toward moving 328 people off the Waiting List in FY27. This reflects our three-year campaign to move more people off the List and into the Community Care Program.
- No cuts to the fee-for-service rates despite the passage of H.R.1 and a decrease in Medicaid dollars coming into the state of NJ.
- Continued funding for The Arc of NJ's Planning for Adult Life Program which helps students and their families as they prepare to leave their educational entitlement and enter the adult world.
- \$9.1 million in state dollars to annualize the DSP wage increase which went into effect on January 1, 2026.



Meeting with Assemblyman Alex Sauickie alongside The Arc of Ocean County



Sharon and Gov. Sherrill at the Budget Address

Federal Advocacy Highlights

- The Arc of NJ served as the State Captain for the Disability Policy Seminar, coordinating and meeting with eight representatives and/or staff members about the critical federal issues impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- Conversations focused on protecting Medicaid and our strong opposition to block grants, per capita caps, and work requirements, and any changes to the program that would reduce Medicaid funding to the State. We also advocated to protect programs funded by the DD Act, and pushed back against the dismantling of the Department of Education.
- The Arc of NJ conducted significant outreach to all of the state's congressional delegation to push back against Medicaid block grants, per capita caps, or work requirements. This included meeting with Congressman Van Drew, along with The Arc of Atlantic County.
- The Arc of NJ assisted the Governor's Office with several Medicaid Roundtable discussions aimed at highlighting the importance of Medicaid.
- The Arc of NJ joined the Garden State Coalition of Care, a group designed to advocate against state cuts to critical programs as H.R. 1 is implemented.

Legislative Highlights, State Advocacy Work & Outreach

- The Arc of NJ met with Governor Sherrill's campaign policy staff ahead of Election Day and then was named to the transition committee after the Governor was elected.
- Authored a GOTV Guide and accompanying website, which included candidate responses from now Governor Sherrill.
- Tracked more than 100 pieces of legislation and testified or weighed in on more than 30 pieces of legislation.
- With The Arc of Hunterdon County, we hosted a DSP Recognition Week Event in September. As well as, hosted a Developmental Disability Awareness Month Celebration with The Arc of Middlesex County in March. DDD Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried attended and presented proclamations from the Governor at both events.



Direct Support Professional Recognition Week at The Arc of Hunterdon County



Developmental Disability Awareness Month Celebration at The Arc of Middlesex County

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute

Lisa Ford

Assistant Executive Director

Lunch and Learn Safety Series

This year, we launched a Lunch and Learn Safety Series that focused on a variety of safety topics designed to help caregivers and professionals identify potential concerns and learn strategies to better protect children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Topics in the series included community safety and the prevention of elopement for children with IDD, emergency preparedness for individuals with IDD, understanding Internet safety for individuals with IDD, and understanding and supporting the aging-related changes that occur as people with IDD grow older.

National Family Caregivers Event

In November 2025, we celebrated National Family Caregivers Month at The Achievement Center at Raritan Valley Community College alongside the amazing staff from The Arc of Somerset County. Students who attend the program were present along with their family members to talk about the important role of family caregivers and the ways in which The Achievement Center helps students build the skills they need for both academic and personal success.

FI "GO Bags"

Several years ago, The Family Institute developed the idea of creating "Go Bags" to help parents and caregivers be the best advocates they can be for their loved ones with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). A Go Bag is a simple collection of essential resources focused on a specific topic. While the topics may vary, the message remains the same: be prepared.

This year, we added several new Go Bags to expand the available resources. New topics include Autism, Day Programs, Emergency Preparedness, Health Care, Healthy Relationships and Sexuality, Medicaid, 504 Plans and Transportation.

3,779

Help Desk Requests

41,000

Website Visitors

85,719

Website Pages

Viewed & Downloaded

19

Webinars Hosted

4,372

Webinar Attendees

1,328

Instagram Followers

(Average views per month: **1,100**)

3,500

Facebook Followers



DHS Deputy
Commissioner
Kaylee McGuire presents
at the Governor's
proclamation at the
National Family
Caregivers Event
(Above)

Autism New Jersey's
Annual Conference
(Left)

Social Media Campaigns

One of the key initiatives the Family Institute focused on this year was using social media to reach more families and professionals and share helpful information to support them as they navigate service systems.

Throughout the year, we created several campaigns to provide accessible and practical resources. Our first campaign focused on Medicaid. Over the course of 31 days, we shared daily tips explaining what Medicaid is, how to apply, and why it is especially important for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our second campaign centered on self-care for parents and caregivers, highlighting strategies to help them manage stress and maintain their well-being while supporting others.

Finally, we launched an ongoing campaign that highlights a new acronym each week, helping families and professionals stay informed and up to date with commonly used terms within the system of care.



March - Staying In
School Until 21
&
November - National
Caregiver Month
Social Media
Campaigns

Day Program Podcast Series

- 1. Go Bag for Day Program Information** – This handy resource is now available on our FI website. It was designed to provide quick, essential information about the Day Programs at our chapters.
- 2. New Podcast Series: Let's Talk Day Programs** – In this series, each episode features 10 questions in 10 minutes about the different Day Programs offered at all of The Arc of New Jersey's Local County Chapters. All episodes are archived on our website and it's been a wonderful addition to our resource list.



Children's Advocacy

Adara Heilmann
Director

Adara Heilmann completed her second year as Director, Children's Advocacy, continuing to support the families and children we serve. She had the opportunity to attend **The Arc of the U.S. National Convention** for the first time. We welcomed John Burdi as our new Coordinator of Information and Referral in October. He brings valuable experience to this important role as a special educator. We also welcomed Jake Conrad, who joined the team as a Spring 2026 intern and has been a great addition to our program.

Special Education			
 504 Plan vs. IEP	 Eligibility Meeting/Triennial Review	 Enrolling Your Child in Public School	 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)
 FASD Community Accommodations	 FASD Fact Sheet	 FBA Fact Sheet	 How to Request Special Education Services
 Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) FAQ's	 Initial Planning Meeting/Re-Eval Meeting	 I&RS	 Manifestation Determination

Special Education Resource Pages

14,466 Advocacy Assists

Phone calls, emails, or other exchanges with families

992 Problem Intake Forms

Submitted via our website

41 Virtual Office Hours

Attended by **120** people

19 Webinars Hosted

With **748** attendees

13 Presentations

Given for community organizations with **395** people in attendance

42 Factsheets

Created this past year and added to our website

82 IEP Meetings Attended

As well as **13** mediations and/or Due Process

The Director provided testimony on four occasions this year—three times before the **State Board of Education** and once before the **Department of Health**—advocating on issues impacting children and families. In addition, she authored a position paper on **Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)**, which was accepted by the Governmental Affairs Committee, helping to advance policy discussion and advocacy in this area.

John worked to expand the Children's Advocacy section of the website by developing several **new resource pages**. These include Special Education Terms to Know, Mental Health and Youth Crisis Resources, Community-Based Resources, Food and Shelter Resources, and Emergency Preparedness. These additions increase access to important information and supports for families of children with disabilities across New Jersey.

Additionally, in collaboration with PFAL, we established a **Youth Advisory Board** to engage young self-advocates ages 14–21. The Board includes three groups designed to support youth leadership, connection, and self-advocacy. Since January, we have hosted nine meetings with approximately **60 participants** taking part in these discussions and activities.



Adara at a Resource Fair
(Above)

Adara & Patrice Jetter
NJSAP Fall Conference
(Left)

Health Care Advocacy

Connor Griffin
Director

The Health Care Advocacy Program promotes health care for individuals with IDD throughout NJ, **advocating for equitable, efficient, and compassionate care** that includes routine access to medical, dental, behavioral, and mental health services. The program experienced rising demand over the past year, illustrated by the increase in help desk requests, growing email listserv, and surge of attendees engaging with webinars and the **“Catching Up with Connor”** video series. Many requests for assistance and presentation topics involve Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security benefits, Disabled Adult Child (“DAC”) status, and accessing medical services or finding healthcare providers.

The Director constantly forms connections with families, caregivers, support coordinators, care management organizations, health agencies, and other professionals and disability advocates across NJ, offering individual advocacy, information and referral, presentations and training, and additional support as needed. The Director also remains actively engaged in systems advocacy, participating in statewide advocacy groups, coalitions, taskforces, and attending meetings with the Medicaid Director, Department of Human Services officials, and other state representatives. A crucial part of the Director’s advocacy since last July, and moving forward, concerns the effects of the federal **H.R.1 legislation, “OBBA” (the One Big Beautiful Bill Act)** on people with IDD and their families. Included in the bill are historic cuts to the Medicaid program that will significantly burden the state Medicaid program (NJ FamilyCare) over the coming months and years, inhibiting the state’s ability to raise revenue for the Medicaid program and reducing the overall amount of federal funding coming to NJ.



NJCDD Regional Family Support Council

Health Care Advocacy distributes new and updated fact sheets, virtual webinars, a **monthly Healthy Times e-newsletter**, and both an annual webinar series and a fall healthcare symposium, presented by distinguished medical professionals and IDD experts. The Director livestreams biweekly “Catching Up with Connor” videos, featuring 10–15 minute informal conversations regarding key healthcare and related topics. Last November, the **2nd Annual Beverly Roberts Memorial Healthcare Symposium** was held virtually and featured a keynote presentation by Kim Musheno, Senior Director of Medicaid Policy at The Arc of the United States, regarding how OBBA will impact states and individuals with IDD. The symposium also featured 2 workshop sessions – one that discussed Medicaid Fair Hearings, appealing Medicaid denials or terminations, and how to address reductions in Medicaid services – and one that addressed “dual eligibility” and the coordination of benefits for a person with IDD has both Medicare and Medicaid coverage. Lastly, this year’s upcoming webinar series will uniquely focus on the health of women with IDD.

Responded to **884** helpdesk requests for assistance & problem intake forms

Hosted **11** webinars

Attended and viewed by **2,202** individuals

Organized a Fall Healthcare Symposium

With **369** registered attendees

Provided **17** guest presentations

Attended by **1,020** individuals

Livestreamed **19** “Catching Up with Connor” Facebook videos

With **5,081** views

Distributed **35** emails and e-newsletters

To an email listserv of **2,472** contacts

Participated in **82** workgroup, committee, coalition, and issue-specific meetings

Planning for Adult Life

Jennifer Harrison
Director

Planning for Adult Life has undergone a tremendous transformation over the past year, shifting our approach from direct service to students with developmental disabilities and refocusing our efforts to becoming an invaluable resource and support structure for the teachers and parents who work with these students daily. We believe that our attention, effort, and content are most effective when helping professionals and families do what they do best.

Our team of four – with the addition of two outstanding Transition Specialists, Rebecca Nash and Catherine Lucey-Meagher and an amazing Information & Referral Coordinator, John Burdi – has concentrated on several approaches to bolstering the work/care of teachers and caregivers.

These include:

Teacher Lab: a curriculum addressing four pillars of transitioning: planning (IEPs, government and school services), learning (post-secondary education), earning (employment and money management), and thriving (soft skills, life skills, and personal safety), along with dozens of worksheets, activities, and role-plays.

Meet Us in the Middle (of the Month): monthly webinars featuring guest speakers on timely topics for people supporting individuals transitioning to adulthood including SSI and Medicaid, Staying Involved After Graduation, Pro Se Guardianship, and Grandparents' Roles in the Life of People With IDD.

Parent Workshops: live or virtual presentations on the topics that matter most to those navigating transition, customizable for the needs of unique groups of caregivers

Parent Boot Camps: pre-recorded mini-workshops for caregivers and families on specific topics they can tackle “one bite at a time,” include emergency preparedness for when young adults are home alone, teaching consent and boundaries, building a foundation for employment, emotion regulation, internet safety, and more.

Office Hours: weekly Zoom-based meetings open to the public for Q&A, discussion, and community-building

Exhibiting and presenting at transition/resource fairs across New Jersey

Revamping the PFAL website to reflect our new blueprint

We have also hosted several special events this year, including:

- A virtual Employment Mentorship Panel with Colleen Collick and participants of Project HIRE
- A live informational event in conjunction with Community Access Unlimited (CAU) and The Arc of Essex called “Dinner and Deets (About Transition Planning)”
- The Arc of NJ’s Great College Fair, an in-person event featuring 16 of New Jersey’s best colleges and trade schools with transition programs



Roselle High School Transition Fair

30

School presentations across New Jersey

14

Transition/resource fairs (Connected with over **350** people)

730

“Meet Us in the Middle (of the Month)” webinar attendees

41

Office hour attendees

59

Instagram Followers

1,329

Facebook friends

Project HIRE

Colleen Collick
Director

Under the leadership of Colleen Collick, **Director, Project HIRE**, the program continues its longstanding commitment to supporting individuals with disabilities in achieving and sustaining competitive, integrated employment within the community. For over four decades, Project HIRE has empowered individuals to attain meaningful workforce participation and enhanced independence.

Project HIRE has successfully maintained a stable and dedicated workforce, with an average staff tenure of 7 years and 4 months. The program remains proactive in recruiting new personnel to meet the evolving needs of the community it serves.

Currently, Project HIRE employs **24 field staff members** who provide direct services to **705 participants** seeking employment or assistance in maintaining their existing positions. Through individualized support, employment coaching, and strategic partnerships with community employers, Project HIRE continues to advance its mission of facilitating long-term, sustainable employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.



Project SEARCH Graduates
Class of 2025

The **Career Pathways Evaluation (CPE)** is an innovative service designed for individuals who may benefit from alternative approaches to traditional vocational evaluation methods. This collaborative program provides both the job coach and the consumer with the opportunity to identify vocational interests, skills, and attributes that support effective vocational planning. Currently in its extended pilot phase, the CPE program demonstrates Project HIRE's commitment to individualized, outcomes-focused employment services. Project HIRE has been selected as the vendor for Middlesex County and has successfully served 39 participants during this reporting year.

Project HIRE became an authorized provider for the federal **Ticket to Work** program. This initiative supports individuals receiving Social Security Administration (SSA) benefits by providing guidance and services that enable participants to transition from benefits to sustained employment and financial independence. During this reporting year, Project HIRE's Ticket to Work program has supported **36 individuals** across various stages.

Project SEARCH will celebrate its **10-year anniversary** at **Overlook Medical Center** in September 2026, marking a decade of dedication to preparing individuals for meaningful employment and career development. In Fiscal Year 2026, the graduating cohort achieved notable outcomes: five individuals were successfully placed in employment, two enrolled at **Kean University** to further their education, and one graduate is actively seeking employment opportunities. The Class of 2026 is currently participating in their second round of internships, with graduation scheduled for **June 16, 2026**. Looking ahead, four future interns have already been accepted for the Class of 2027, demonstrating ongoing interest and commitment to the program.

88

Individuals placed in employment

705

Consumers served

22,292.25

Service hours logged

13

Counties served

24

Field staff members

7 years and 4 months

Average staff retention

New Jersey Self-Advocacy Program

Erin Smithers
Director



Advocates Meeting
with Senator Zwicker

Advocates testified at the Senate, Assembly, and NJDHS Budget Hearings. NJSSAN members wrote letters to the Massachusetts Governor to stop shock therapy at one of their schools. Advocates also wrote letters to Governor Mikie Sherrill and NJDHS Commissioner Dr. Stephen Cha welcoming them into their new positions. Letters were written to the State Capitol Joint Management Commission Members to ensure parking stayed accessible at the State House. Advocates also met with Senator Zwicker last March.

NJSAP was represented at **491** workgroups and committees. NJSAP Director also presented at The Arc of the U.S. National Convention in November, the Supporting Youth and Adults with IDD Convening in June, and the SABE conference in October. NJSAP also attended the Protect Medicaid Rally, the Hudson County Community Connection Event, The Arc of Union Voting Event in October, the NJAPSE conference in October, The Youth Transition Conference in January '26, and attended national self-advocacy meetings.



October Voting Training



October Fall Conference

NJSAP held a Spring Luncheon on Zoom in April with **270** attendees. NJSAP also had their first in-person Fall Conference since the pandemic. The Conference had **216** attendees. DHS Commissioner Sarah Adelman, DDD Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried, and DHS Deputy Commissioner Kaylee McGuire were also in attendance.

7,844 Advocates Reached
310 Direct Support Professionals Reached
245 Trainings Delivered
33 Trainings Created
(Total of **115** trainings offered)
54 Webinars
Attended by **751** people
52 NJSSAN Meetings
With **679** participants & **141** new members
11 Additional Advocacy Meetings
18 Publications Disseminated
20 New Infographics & Resources

906 Social Media Posts
332 New Followers (Across Platforms)
(**11,490** website visits, **416.7** watched hours on YouTube, **67,160** Facebook visits)
4,531 List Serv Subscribers
200 New Email Subscribers
451 Virtual Events
With **23,863** participants
176 Email Blasts & Action Alerts
13 NJSAP Wrap-Up Videos
(**311** Views)
10 Special Events



Criminal Justice Advocacy Program (CJAP)

Robyn Holt
Director

CJAP continued to strengthen its role as a statewide leader in **disability-informed justice advocacy** for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities involved in, or at risk of entering, the criminal legal system. Through direct advocacy, systems coordination, training, and cross-sector collaboration, the program worked to reduce justice involvement, improve legal and community outcomes, and expand disability-informed practice across legal, correctional, educational, healthcare, and service systems.

Throughout the year, CJAP managed a high and complex caseload while providing intensive, hands-on advocacy across active, monitoring, and systems-coordination statuses. Staff developed **Person-Centered Justice Plans**, appeared in court, coordinated with key stakeholders, submitted advocacy materials, and worked closely with clients, families, attorneys, courts, probation, service providers, and DDD partners. These efforts contributed to dismissed charges, vacated warrants, avoided incarceration, secured diversion and monitoring plans, and continued stability in community-based settings, reflecting CJAP's consistent ability to achieve stronger legal outcomes through disability-informed advocacy.

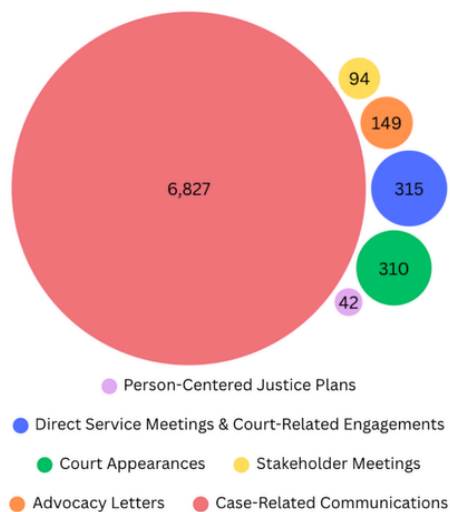
A major highlight of the year was the growing recognition of CJAP's educational leadership. CJAP's presentation, **"Invisible and Incarcerated,"** was delivered to faculty and staff at Princeton University and has since expanded into higher education curriculum through Columbia Southern University. CJAP also hosted **10 Equal Justice Talks webinars**, further strengthening its role as a statewide interdisciplinary platform on IDD and justice issues.



NJ Office of the Public Defender:
Defender Summit 2026

Direct Service & Advocacy Activity

120+ Individuals Served



CJAP's influence also continued to grow through strong statewide and interstate partnerships. During the reporting period, the program presented to and collaborated with organizations including **Rutgers Project ECHO**, the **New Jersey Division of Developmental Disabilities**, the **New Jersey Department of Corrections**, **The Arc of the United States**, and the **Connecticut Sentencing Commission**. By early 2026, that momentum continued through high-level training in Middlesex County, a correctional systems engagement at **Sing Sing Correctional Facility**, and a presentation at the **Probation Association of New Jersey**.

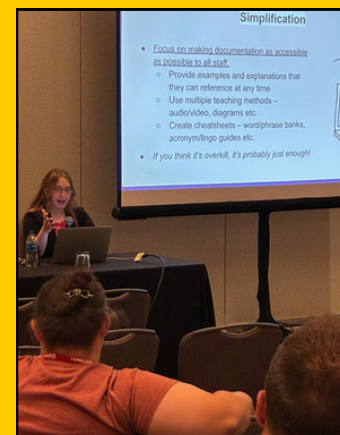
Training and Consultation Services

Samantha Goldfarb
Director

Training and Consultation Services (TCS) seeks to promote the accessibility and sustainability of employment for people with IDD by supporting those providing and participating in DDD-funded employment services across New Jersey. The program specializes in providing high-quality education, resources, and technical assistance that is tailored to the specific needs of each service user. This includes providing private in-person and virtual trainings for agencies; running monthly virtual trainings that are accessible to the public; and developing new trainings and tools to address emerging trends in employment services.

In the past year, TCS provided **62 training sessions** and **14 consultations** for a total of **146.25 hours** of provider support. The program supports a total of **33 agencies**, nine of which began receiving assistance this year. TCS also **added five additional trainings** to its catalogue, and a **total of 24 trainings** are currently available to its user base. Newly-added subjects include setting professional boundaries, developing SMART goals, and managing challenging situations in the workplace. In addition, TCS increased the number of informational videos in its **"Fast-Facts"** series on YouTube from five to ten and continues to publish **three newsletters per month** to assist its user base outside of direct support.

In order to maximize its efforts, the program also works with additional agencies that promote employment services for people with IDD. This year, TCS Director Samantha Goldfarb presented at the **2025 National APSE Conference** in Washington, D.C. and participated in meetings with New Jersey's Congressional delegation to advocate for employment services and their funding on a national level. She continued her tenure as a **member of NJAPSE's Board of Directors** and as a **co-chair of their Professional Development Committee**, and she assisted in planning, setting up, and facilitating the **Facing The Future conference for 2025**. In addition, she joined and became a co-chair of the newly-developed **Employment Supports Committee** through NJ CeArc.



2025 National
APSE
Conference

Human Resources and Finance

Helen Rivera
Director, Administration

- Managed the accounts payable, receivable, payroll and human resources for both The Arc of NJ and NJ Camp Jaycee.
- Completed the financial audits for both The Arc of NJ and NJ Camp Jaycee for FY25.
 - No findings were discovered on either audit.
- Researched and implemented a transition to a new healthcare plan.
- Assisted Camp Jaycee with implementation of new registration system for camp services.
- Covered a committee of staff to develop a new employee evaluation system.
- Administered the federal student loan forgiveness program for The Arc Local County Chapters.

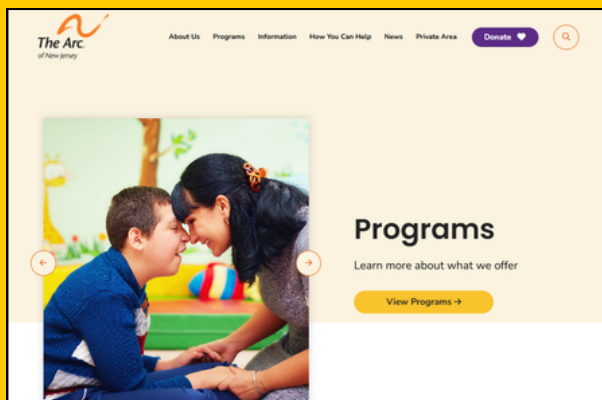
Fundraising, Grants and Communication

Fundraising

2025 Annual Awards Dinner	\$49,523
General Donations	\$46,086
Annual Appeal	\$9,925

Grants

NJ State Bar Foundation	\$6,000
The Horizon Foundation for NJ	\$50,000 (for 2 years)



The Arc of New Jersey Website (Left) and Facebook (Right)

Communications

For The Arc of NJ, excluding The Arc Family Institute or Planning for Adult Life

Website

63,733 Visitors
146,399 Pages Viewed
11,771 Downloads

Social Media & Mailing List

5,532 Facebook followers
3,300 X followers
3,014 Mailing List Contacts

2025 Annual Awards Dinner

On May 20, 2025, The Arc of New Jersey held its Annual Awards Celebration. More than 230 attendees gathered to honor our 12 amazing award recipients.



Statewide PR Campaign

In the Fall of 2025, the Local County Chapters of The Arc joined together to launch a statewide public relations campaign. The goal is to increase the visibility of The Arc across the state and draw attention to the outstanding supports and services provided. The campaign includes traditional media, social media and the production of videos.



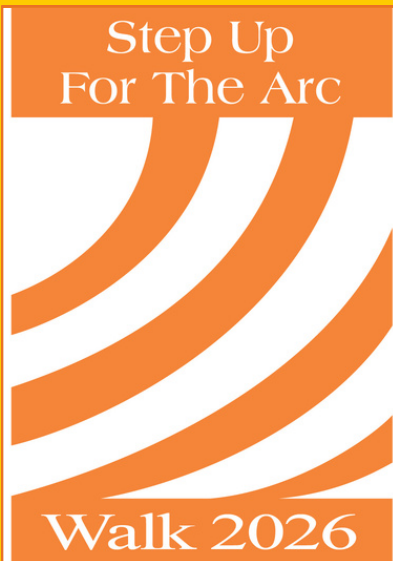
The Arc of US National Convention & Disability Policy Seminar

The Arc of US National Convention – November 2025 (Top)



Disability Policy Seminar – March 2026 (Bottom)

Local County Chapter Walkathons



Local County Chapters of The Arc host walkathons in the Spring and Fall to raise awareness and critical funds for their programs. Information about the County Walks can be found at www.StepUpForTheArc.org.



Tom Baffuto's Retirement Dinner



On June 25, 2025, more than 260 friends, family and colleagues gathered to honor Tom Baffuto and wish him well as he moved into retirement. After 40 years with the organization – and 26 of them as Executive Director – Tom's legacy of service and advocacy for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families is extraordinary. Michael Prendergast was named Interim Executive Director on July 1, 2025. In October Céline Fortin was named the 6th Executive Director in The Arc of New Jersey's 76 year history.



Committees, Taskforces, and Workgroups

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
APCO Mental Health Working Group
Atlantic County CIACC
Atlantic County Youth Services Commission
Bergen County CIACC
Boggs Center Consumer Advisory Committee
Bridging IDD and Aging- NJCDD
Burlington County Partnership for Youth Success
Camden County CIACC
Cape May County CIACC
CAT- Center for Adult Transition Advisory Board
CIT Stakeholders Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates
DDAN Children and Youth Issues
DDD Leadership Committee
Developmental Disabilities Advocacy Network Educational Partnership
Envisioning the Best Life at All Life Stages State Action Team
Essex County CIACC
FASD Nationwide Collective
Future is Now Train the Trainer
Garden State Coalition for Care - Administration Subcommittee
Garden State Coalition for Care - Legislative Subcommittee
Garden State Coalition for Care - Public Advocacy Subcommittee
Gloucester County CIACC
Governor-elect Mikie Sherrill Interdisciplinary Advisory Taskforce
Gun Violence Prevention Advisory Board - Camden County
Home Care & Hospice Association of NJ PDN Coalition
Hudson County CIACC
Hunterdon CIACC
Medicaid Monitoring and Eligibility Topics Biweekly Group, hosted by the NJ Medicaid Director
Medicare and Medicaid Integration Workgroup, hosted by Justice in Aging
Monmouth County CIACC
Monmouth County CIACC - IDD Subcommittee
Monmouth County Education Partnership Committee
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter
National Conference of Executives of The Arc (NCE)
NJ APSE Board of Directors
NJ APSE Conference Committee
NJ APSE Membership and Outreach Committee
NJ APSE Professional Development Committee
NJ Business and Industry Association
NJ Coalition for Special Education Funding Reform
NJ Community of Practice State Action Team
NJ Conference of Executives of The Arc (NJCEArc)
NJ Dental Association Oral Health Coalition
NJ FASD Taskforce
NJ Medicare Partners
NJ Special Education Advisory Stakeholder Outreach
NJ WorkAbility Communications Workgroup
NJCDD Children & Youth Subcommittee
NJCEArc Development Directors Group
NJCEArc Finance Directors Group
NJCEArc Technology Committee
NJCEArc Human Resource Directors Group
Ocean County Blue Envelope Rollout Committee
Restraint and Seclusion Stakeholder Group
Somerset CIACC
Somerset Youth Services Commission
SPAN Parent Training Information Stakeholder Advisory Council
Supportive Housing Association of NJ
The Arc@School
The Human Services Equity Coalition
TPSID Steering Committee SCCC
Transition Leadership Network TriCounty CIACC

Staff of The Arc of New Jersey represented the organization on more than 60 Committees, Taskforces and Workgroups in FY 2026.



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