



## Many Disability Priorities Funded in FY23 Budget

On June 30, Governor Murphy signed the \$50.6 billion budget bill into law, a spending plan which includes a full payment to the state worker pension fund, bigger property tax rebates and a surplus of more than \$6 billion. Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to attend the budget bill signing that took place in Cranford. In addition to the Governor, the event was attended by many important dignitaries from the Legislature, including the Senate President and Speaker of the Assembly. The Arc of New Jersey would like to thank and acknowledge both the Governor and the Legislature for another State Budget that addresses many of the funding priorities for individuals with IDD, their families, and Chapters of The Arc. The FY23 Budget has an astounding amount of dollars earmarked for those we represent – more than \$100 million across the Division of Developmental Disabilities in new, state dollars, the majority of which will receive federal matching dollars via Medicaid. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Governor Phil Murphy with The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto at the budget bill signing on June 30.



The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto with Senate President Scutari at the budget bill signing on June 30.



The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto with Senate Budget Chairman Paul Sarlo at the budget bill signing on June 30.

## The Arc of NJ Honors Award Recipients at Celebration Event



Senator Steve Sweeney (center) receives the President's Award.



Lauren Frary, retiring Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset County, receives the Executive Excellence Award.



Assemblyman Dan Benson (center) receives the Legislator of the Year Award.

The Arc of New Jersey celebrated advocates, families, organizations and more at our annual Awards Celebration which took place on Thursday, June 16, at the Imperia in Somerset. We want to congratulate all of the tremendous honorees who do so much to improve the lives of people with intellectual and

developmental disabilities and their families. It was an incredible evening, a wonderful celebration and an important chance to recognize the great work happening in New Jersey. To view the full list of award winners, [click here](#). To view more photos from the event, [click here](#). To view the Ad Journal from the event, [click here](#).

## Local Chapter Happenings in the Month of June



Congratulations to The Arc of Bergen and Passaic Counties who held their 75th Anniversary Gala on June 29, at the Lake House at Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes. The event honored families who have made it possible for The Arc of Bergen and Passaic to carry on the legacy of their founders. The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to attend the event and celebrate with the Chapter on this momentous occasion!



Congratulations to The Arc of Somerset County on their 50th Anniversary Arc Angel Gala which took place on Friday, June 10, at the Bridgewater Marriott. The event included a cocktail hour and dinner, as well as live entertainment and a raffle. Pictured from left to right is The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, former Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset Lou Baldino, retiring Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset Lauren Frary, and incoming Executive Director for The Arc of Somerset Chris Corvino.



Congratulations to Jeff Mattison who retired last month as the Executive Director of The Arc of Hunterdon County. A celebration was held last month at the Bridgewater Manor. We wish Jeff all the best in retirement. Pictured from left to right is The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto, Jeff Mattison and The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin.



Congratulations to Lauren Frary who retired last month from The Arc of Somerset County after a 15 year tenure as Executive Director. A celebration in Lauren's honor took place in June at Savor in Somerville. Representatives from the local county Chapters, past and present board members, program directors and The Arc Foundation Board of Trustees were in attendance. Lauren is pictured above, left, with The Arc of NJ's Associate Executive Director Celine Fortin.

*Save the Date for the 38th Annual Self Advocacy*

**Tell Congress: Support the SSI Savings Penalty**



The New Jersey Self Advocacy Network will host a virtual Fall Conference on Saturday, October 1, 2022. The event will take place via Zoom and is free to attend.



The **Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** program provides critical support for millions of people with disabilities and their families to be able to afford necessities like food and rent. But it has many rules that make it hard for people to save money and get out of poverty. **TAKE ACTION:** Urge your U.S. Senators to support people with disabilities and their families by cosponsoring the bipartisan SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act (**S.4102**) which would raise these asset limits.

## The Arc of NJ Celebrates Staff at Annual Picnic

On June 24, The Arc of New Jersey celebrated the accomplishments of its hard working staff at their annual picnic. After a hiatus of 2 years due to COVID-19, it was wonderful to bring everyone out in-person for food, fun and some much deserved recognition. Staff recognized for significant anniversaries this year included:

**5 years:** Maureen Brennan, Frankie Bayak, Michael Pearson Jr., Maria Brinkley, Erin Costa and Karen Rosado

**15 years:** Colleen Collick and Jerisa Chiumbu Maseko

New this year was the introduction of Exemplary Employee Awards, recognizing employees who went “above and beyond”. Nominations were submitted by employees’ peers and final selections were made by executive staff. Congratulations to all the nominees and to our 2022 Exemplary Employees:

**Director Category:** Beverly Roberts

**Professional Category:** Frankie Bayak, Alfonso Vivar, and Susan Reves



## 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.

**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. Live transcription is available.

- July 5: **\*NEW\* Preventing Diabetes**
- July 12: **REPLAY: You and Me, the DSP: A Conversation with DSPs & the People They Support**
- July 19: **REPLAY: Multiple Choice: Q&A On Supported Decision Making**
- July 26: **REPLAY: Downsizing: How to Lower Your Carbon Footprint**



### 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*.

- July 6: [Art Workshop](#)
- July 13: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- July 20: [Art Therapy Session](#)
- July 27: [Basic Videography Using Household Items](#)

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 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.

## 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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