



UPDATE FROM TRENTON

NJ FY 2020 Budget Signed: Funds for DSP Wages Included

The month of June focused almost solely on the passage of the State FY 2020 budget and the advocacy needed to ensure that the issues of persons with I/DD were addressed in next year's spending plan. The Senate and Assembly Budget Committees approved the FY20 budget bill on June 17th and then the full Senate and Assembly approved the bill on June 20th, sending it to Governor Murphy for action. The proposed budget left off some of the revenue items which the Governor was promoting, such as the "Millionaire's Tax", and added some spending items, such as a \$20 million appropriation to increase wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs).

As the Legislators wrapped up their work on the \$38.8 billion spending plan, The Arc of NJ was hard at work, keeping our spending priorities front and center. Executive Director Tom Baffuto continued to meet with legislators, driving home the message that the State FY20 budget must include \$54 million to increase the wages of the DSPs.



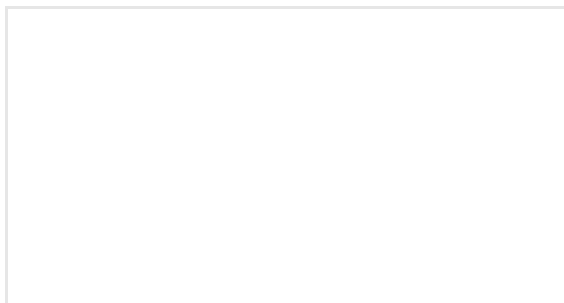
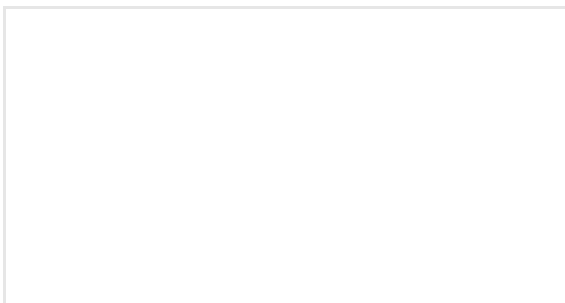
To read more about The Arc of NJ's advocacy in June, [click here](#).

The Arc of NJ Awarded Grant for Cadet Program



The Arc of New Jersey was pleased to learn that our Criminal Justice Advocacy and Project HIRE Supported Employment Programs have been awarded a grant from The Arc of the US. The Arc's National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability is funding

an apprenticeship program for individuals with I/DD to work in law enforcement agencies in Monmouth County. The JusticeWorks initiative supports 4-6 cadets in multiple law enforcement agencies such as the Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Office and Police Departments for 16 week sessions. The grant also covers the costs to hold a one-day Pathways to Justice training for law enforcement agencies.





SONJ Summer Games

Congratulations to Special Olympics New Jersey athletes from all over the state on an amazing 2019 Summer Games. Held June 7-9 at The College of New Jersey, the SONJ summer games featured competition in seven different sports including bocce, gymnastics, powerlifting, softball, swimming, tennis and track & field.

Pictured above: The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto with Senate President Steve Sweeney and Carmen Bannon, Chief Program Management Officer, SONJ at the opening ceremonies



The Arc of NJ Executive Director Honored

On June 13th, the local county chapter of The Arc in Sussex County-SCARC - held their annual dinner and election of officers. In addition, they honored several individuals, groups and businesses with awards for their outstanding support of the chapter and people with I/DD. The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Thomas Baffuto was one of those deserving honorees who was presented with the Robert Lane Chairman's Award.

Pictured above: Tom Baffuto receives the SCARC Robert Lane Chairman's Award from Andy Sharick, Chair, SCARC Board of Trustees

Law Enforcement Training & Education



Training for law enforcement, the legal community and direct service providers has become an ever growing part of our mission, as local, county and state agencies become aware of the unique needs of people with I/DD and are interested in serving more effectively. This year, The Arc of NJ's Criminal Justice Advocacy Program provided a training block in 6 counties for their 40 Hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training for law enforcement and mental health providers. We continue to work with the statewide CIT Program to ensure that issues related to developmental disabilities are included in every county. We provided training about communicating effectively with people with I/DD for the Attorney General's Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Annual Symposium which has resulted in requests from local direct service sexual assault and domestic violence agencies for training. We also sponsored a Pathways to Justice Training in Warren and

Sussex Counties, bringing speakers from The Arc of the US National Center on Criminal Justice and Disabilities to New Jersey. In addition, we have trained New Jersey judges and court staff, to ensure appropriate access to the court system, as part of their statewide ADA compliance training. We were excited to begin including The NJ Self-Advocacy Project in our trainings as well, with Project staff and self-advocates participating in the Warren Pathways to Justice training, and Ashley Ritchey, Director, NJ Self-Advocacy Project conducting the June CIT training in Union. Including all training for law enforcement, judges and direct support providers, we conducted 23 trainings, reaching more than 1500 attendees throughout the State in FY 2019.

Pictured above: Jessica Oppenheim, Esq., Director, Criminal Justice Advocacy Program with Elizabeth Kelley, Esq.

The Arc Local Chapter Walks Wrap Up for Spring



The Step Up For The Arc walks are an annual statewide initiative of The Arc of New Jersey, with walkathons held locally by local county chapters. It's a fun, healthy and easy way to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The last two

walkathons for the Spring were held on June 2nd for The Arc of Salem County and on June 9th for The Arc of Bergen & Passaic.

Pictured above: Patty Irwin and Céline Fortin with Assemblyman John Burzichelli at The Arc of Salem.

Pictured right: Tom Baffuto, second from left, with The Arc of Bergen & Passaic Counties.



After a well-deserved Summer break, local county chapters of The Arc will resume their walkathons on September 28th for The Arc of Hunterdon, and October 12th for The Arc Ocean and The Arc of Atlantic.

Check Out These Great Webinars & Podcasts



Although our Programs take a break from live webinars during the summer months, don't forget that all our webinars and podcasts are recorded. That means the great information they contain is available to you anytime! Summer is a great time to review topics you have already learned about or to gain new information. See the links below to dozens of informative recordings.

[The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute Webinars](#)
[The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute Podcasts](#)
[Planning for Adult Life Webinars](#)
[Criminal Justice Advocacy Program Webinars](#)

Help Us Improve Our Services!



Training resources for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families

survey so that we can continue to improve this great resource for the community. You can find the survey [here](#).

We hope you have had the chance to visit our DD Training Resources website, a valuable resource where you can find information about workshops, trainings, webinars and conferences on a wide variety of topics related to intellectual and developmental disabilities. The website includes a calendar of upcoming trainings as well as links to archived training materials. If not, take a minute to visit the website here: [Go to website!](#)

And when you're done, please fill out a visitor

Thank you to the [NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities](#) for awarding The Arc of NJ a grant for Year 3 of the DD Training Resources Project!

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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