

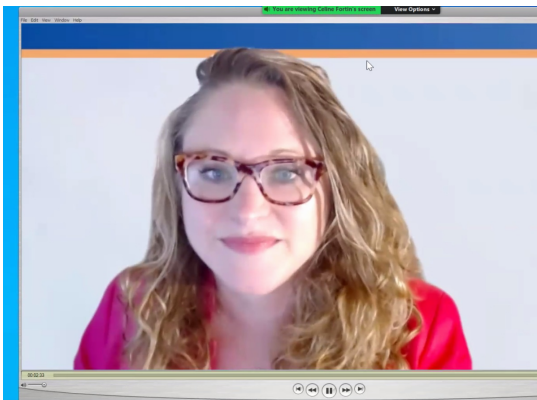


The Arc of NJ's Priority Issues Addressed in Budget; Governor Signs Special Education Bill

The Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget signed into law on June 29, by Governor Murphy, recognizes many of the critical funding areas impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and community provider organizations. Despite the many challenges of the last year, the FY22 Budget is an incredible acknowledgement of those we represent. While we are still working to obtain all the details of the funding document, we do know funding was included to address early intervention, supported employment, day programs, Direct Support Professional wages and increased costs incurred by residential providers due to COVID. To have so many of our top-level issues addressed in the Budget is a testament to our community's voice. As such, The Arc of New Jersey thanks everyone who took time to weigh in on these priority matters and share their story. Although there was no shortage of difficulties this past year, we are heartened by the state's spending plan which will support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and the provider community in the months ahead. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Experts Deliver Insights at Medical Care Conference



The Arc of New Jersey offered insightful workshops and important information sessions as part of its 31st Annual Conference on Medical Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities on Thursday, June 10, and Friday, June 11. The Conference is geared toward those interested in providing quality health care to individuals with I/DD. This includes health and mental health professionals, administrative and direct care staff, family members, social workers HMO representatives and employees of the New Jersey Departments of Human Services (DHS), Children and Families, and Health. Attendees heard from senior-level members of the Administration, including DHS Acting Commissioner Adelman, (*pictured top left*) DHS Assistant

Commissioner Jennifer Langer Jacobs and Assistant Commissioner Jonathan Seifried. Attendees also received a federal policy update from representatives of The Arc of the United States and learned more about recent updates in the medical field and changes post-COVID from a host of experts and professionals.

Congratulations to NJSAP & The Arc Atlantic County

Erin Smithers Promoted to

The Arc of Atlantic Celebrates

Assistant Director of the NJ Self-Advocacy Project

The Arc of New Jersey would like to congratulate Erin Smithers on her recent promotion to Assistant Director of the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project.



Previously, Erin served as an Information and Referral Coordinator, assisting Self-Advocates to navigate the service delivery system, coordinating Council meetings and helping advocates make their voice heard on legislation, state budgets and public policy. As Assistant Director Erin will be continuing her work as I&R Coordinator but adding on supervising tasks, coordinating trainings with the Governmental Affairs Ambassador Program (GAAP), maintaining updates to all social media outlets, and continuing personal trainings to groups all over the state.

60th Anniversary



Congratulations to The Arc of Atlantic on their Celebrate 60 event which was held at the Golden Nugget in Atlantic City on Thursday, June 10 in recognition of the Chapter's 60 years of service to people with IDD. The evening included live entertainment, dancing, a silent auction and more. Pictured above is Congressman Jeff Van Drew and The Arc of NJ's Executive Director Tom Baffuto at the Celebrate 60 event.

Register Now for Free Making Action Plans Sessions

The Planning for Adult Life Program is pleased to offer FREE live virtual Making Action Plans sessions for high school students in special education. These "live" online classes will begin the week of July 6, 2021 and run through August 13, 2021.

Each class will last 50 minutes and include:

- 5-minute ice-breaker activity
- 5-minute review of the prior lesson
- 25-minute skill-building (presentation of skill, discussion, and student practice)
- 10-minute game playing/interactive activity
- 5-minute feedback and assignment of generalization activity outside of the session.
- Sessions include a weekly student small group class over 10 weeks. There are a total of 10 group classes.

For more information, [click here](#).



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.



Zoom with Us:

- July 27 at 6 pm: [Guardianship and Supported Decision-Making](#)

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. **SUMMER HITS! We'll be playing**

replays of some of our favorite past webinars all of July and August. Don't worry, we'll be back in the fall with a new and improved webinar series with brand-new topics and new accessibility features!

- July 6: [REPLAY: ADA from A-Z: An Overview of the Americans with Disabilities Act](#)
- July 13: [REPLAY: Handmade Tale: DIY Gift Making Guide](#)
- July 20: [REPLAY: Multiple Choice: Q&A On Supported Decision Making](#)
- July 27: [REPLAY: Workplace Accommodations for Intellectual Disabilities](#)

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 7: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- July 14: [A Shore Thing: Summer and Beach Safety](#)
- July 21: [Art Workshop: Collage Portrait](#)
- July 28: [ADA Awareness Month: The Impact of The ADA](#)

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 few weeks, 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.



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](#)

STAY CONNECTED

DONATE NOW!

