



Advocacy Focuses on Legislation & FY23 Budget

In February, The Arc of New Jersey continued to advocate for funding priorities impacting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. Governor Murphy will deliver his annual State Budget Address on March 8. Following his address, we will determine additional details about his funding plan and then provide our feedback at hearings hosted by the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees. Keep a look out for action alerts and additional ways you can provide input to the Legislature to help support our Budget advocacy in the weeks to come. On the legislative side, The Arc of New Jersey supported a number of bills voted on by the Assembly Human Services Committee on February 14. To continue reading, [click here](#).



Former Senate President Recognizes Contributions of The Arc of NJ's Executive Director



The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto was honored to receive an award last month from former Senate President Steve Sweeney. The Senate President acknowledged Tom for his contributions that have helped advance the interests of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities living throughout the state. Steve Sweeney, who served as Senate President for many years and who represented the third legislative district, was a staunch advocate for people with IDD and their families. He sponsored many bills aimed at improving transportation options, employment opportunities, special education, and community living, for those we represent. Tom and The Arc of NJ thank Senate President Sweeney for this acknowledgement. It was a great distinction for Tom to receive this award from a champion of disability issues!

Governor Recognizes March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

The Arc of New Jersey thanks Governor Phil Murphy for declaring March to be Developmental



Disabilities Awareness Month. (To read the full proclamation, click the image.) Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to raise awareness about the inclusion of people with IDD in all facets of community life, as well as awareness of

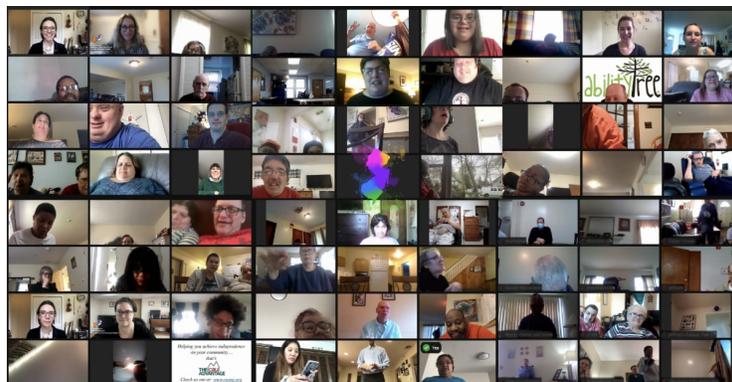


If you are looking for more information about Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, check out The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project's [web page dedicated to this important month](#) There you will find social media tools, DD Awareness Month templates and more. You can also click the image above for additional resources from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD).

the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face.

Registration Open for Self-Advocacy Luncheon

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network work together to host the annual [Spring Into Action Awards Luncheon](#). The event is an opportunity for Self-Advocates and Allies to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and celebrate the accomplishments of Self-Advocates over the past year. This year, the Spring Into Action Luncheon will take place **virtually on Saturday April 9!** [Click here](#) to register online. Registration is free. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by clicking [here](#).



Tell Your Congress: Pass Disability Funding Now!

It's time for a HISTORIC investment in disability funding, so everyone can get the support they need to live in their community - instead of in institutions. People with disabilities rely on home and community-based services (HCBS) for everyday things like employment supports, getting around the community, dressing, bathing, taking medication, and much more. But there isn't enough money in the HCBS program to support everyone. Too many people are stuck on waiting lists and not getting the services they need. Direct care workers are underpaid, which leads to high turnover, critical staffing shortages, and compromised care for many people with disabilities. Now it's time for the Senate to act so this bill can be signed into law! [Contact your Senators now](#) because **#CareCantWait!**



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.

Mondays with Michael:

Every week at 10 am, catch a brief update from Michael Pearson Jr., Assistant Director, Children's Advocacy, on a topic or featured resource related to special education. Click the image on the right to view upcoming dates/topics. Mondays with Michael are Facebook Live events.



MONDAYS WITH MICHAEL

Every week at 10am catch a brief update from Michael Pearson Jr. on a topic or featured resource related to special education.

March 7th IEPs vs. 504 Plans	April 4th Assistive Tech in Class	April 25th IEP>Mediation>Due Process
March 14th S905/A1281 Update	April 11th Extended School Year	May 2nd College Programs in NJ
March 21st What is Compensatory Education?	April 18th Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) and Types of Placement	May 9th DDD Services When an Individual is 21 and in School
March 28th Related Services in IEPs		

HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THEARCOFNEWJERSEY
WWW.THEARCFAMILYINSTITUTE.ORG

Fireside Chat:

- March 16 at 6 pm: [Family Institute Fireside Chat with Beverly Roberts](#)

Webinars:

- March 9 at 6 pm: [IEP Meetings Don't Have to Be Scary](#)
- March 16 at 6 pm: [Your Voice is Vital for the Future of Services](#)
- March 17 at 2 pm: [What Do I Need to Know About: Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) and Medicaid Funding, Insurance Appeals, and Maximizing Benefits](#)

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.

- March 1: [Developing Testimony & Action Alert Advocacy](#)
- March 8: [REPLAY: Brain Health and Nutrition](#)
- March 15: [REPLAY: Sexual Violence & People with Disabilities: What It Is & What We Can Do About It](#)
- March 22: [REPLAY: Empowering Legislative Advocates Through Video](#)
- March 29: [REPLAY: Augmentative & Alternative Communication](#)

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*.

- March 2: [Art Workshop](#)
- March 9: [Food for Thought: Interactive Recipe](#)
- March 18: [Strike A Pose: Virtual Yoga Class](#)
- March 23: [The Right Fit: Find Your Exercise with Adaptive Fitness](#)
- March 30: [Under The Sea with Mystic Aquarium](#)

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.



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

DONATE NOW!

STAY CONNECTED



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