

# eXplore eRecycling:

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## Sustainability Efforts in The Arc Network

### Request for Proposals

Accepting Applications 4/2/2012 thru 4/27/2012

# **Announcement of Funding Availability**

The Arc of the United States is pleased to announce funding for models of electronic recycling within local communities that engage employees with intellectual and other developmental disabilities (I/DD). Chapters of The Arc in “good standing” are invited to respond to the Request for Proposals (RFP) described in this document.

The mission of The Arc is to promote and protect the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively support their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. The Arc achieves this mission by supporting adults with I/DD in having the opportunity to lead lives of their own choosing, free from poverty, to be employed, to reside in the community, and to live independently with ready access to whatever services and supports they need. The Arc also serves as a catalyst advancing best practices among all community based service providers and the preeminent provider of inclusive services and supports for people with I/DD and their families.

The Arc makes funds available to fulfill its mission in a variety of areas in accordance with The Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc. Funding is made available primarily through competitive bids or RFPs. A general description of the RFP is included in this document. The complete RFP package is available on The Arc website ([www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)) and may be requested by mail or email. Please complete and submit the Notification of Intent to Apply by April 11, 2012, located on the back page of this publication, if your Chapter intends to apply.

## **eXplore eRecycling: Sustainability Efforts in The Arc Network**

### **Request for Proposals RFP #1 4-2012**

#### **Intent and Objectives**

The goal of The Arc’s eRecycling initiative is to explore how eRecycling efforts are occurring in non-profit disability organizations in communities across the United States. The intent of this initiative is to invest in and strengthen state and local chapters of The Arc in building capacity and expertise around electronic waste management and to create and provide support for inclusive community-based employment at competitive wages. A peer learning community will be formed for selected applicants and is required for the grantee chapters.

Although issues pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act (such as: transportation and physical access) are important to consider within any employment initiative serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, these issues should not be the primary focus of any proposal.

A successful applicant will:

- Provide a detailed profile of their business plan in e-waste reduction and e-recycling, including a plan to provide effective accommodations for employees with I/DD as necessary.
- Ensure the implementation demonstrates a commitment to providing inclusive community-based employment opportunities for individuals with I/DD. All projects must employ people with I/DD

at minimum wage or higher with work taking place in the community in settings that are typical for this type of business activity.

- Ensure the goals and strategies as well as the action steps are clearly stated, reflective of the intent of the RFP, and measurable.
- Ensure the proposal includes an outcome evaluation component outlining how the proposed project track relevant outcome data, including: (1) the volume of e-waste diverted through reusing, refurbishing, dismantling, or shredding materials for material recovery; (2) the number of people with I/DD participating in community-based employment, the hours and wages attained and employee satisfaction; (3) the extent that people with I/DD interact with persons without disabilities in the regular course of their employment.
- Demonstrate an awareness and understanding of any OSHA, federal or state laws or regulatory standards, including but not limited to industry certification, applicable to electronic waste management and recycling.
- Ensure the implementation demonstrates the integration of employees with I/DD into all aspects of business management and operations to the fullest extent possible.

## **What We Know**

Rapid changes in technology have resulted in a fast-growing surplus of electronic waste. The EPA estimated that in 2009, 438 million new electronic products were sold, and only 25% of electronic products ready for end-of-life management were collected for recycling (U.S. EPA, 2011). This translates to more than 3 million tons of electronic waste that is generated each year in the United States alone. The amount of e-waste could rise as much as 500% over the next decade in high-use countries (UNEP, 2009).

Current major interventions and strategies being used in the field to address this issue include the collection of recyclable products to be reused, refurbished, dismantled, or shredded for material recovery. Environmental and social benefits of reuse include conservation of natural resources, reduction of hazardous disposal pollution, reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, reduction of packaging, and diminished use of landfills. A key limitation that is associated with these strategies is that there is a need to increase the capacity of waste reduction efforts, reuse/refurbishing, and material recovery options for residential and commercial/institutional users, especially in the area of electronic recycling.

Furthermore, in looking for potential industry solutions, little is known about how nonprofit disability organizations are contributing to e-recycling efforts, which models are most effective, and in which context. Nonprofits that engage in e-recycling efforts through community-based social enterprises and employment training programs and that are productive in recycling can also help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) learn valuable work skills and contribute to local economies.

People with I/DD have high unemployment rates, yet with training and job accommodations, many can be employed in the e-recycling industry and contribute meaningfully to advancing solutions to the increasing amounts of e-waste. Therefore, The Arc proposes to address this unmet need by exploring models and contexts of e-recycling programs operated by disability nonprofits; and supporting innovation in nonprofit e-recycling programs that advance recycling outcomes as well as integrated, community-based employment of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

## Target Population

This fund release is targeted to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities; specifically, adults ages 18 years and up. The recipient of this fund release will actively engage individuals with I/DD in the implementation of activities under the grant and advance a focus on the issue consistent with principles of self-determination and person-centeredness. The Arc seeks opportunities that actively involve minorities and that address issues related to, e.g., culture and ethnicity.

**Listed below are some strategies that applicants may wish to consider\*.**

- Modify and adapt existing community programs, materials, services or settings rather than creating something entirely new or something involving only people with I/DD.
- Explore building bridges with businesses and other organizations that have a need to dispose of, or to facilitate the disposal of, electronics products or that are providing services related to the process of collection, refurbishing and reuse, and materials reclamation.
- Explore interfacing with local retailers or organizations that are promoting consumer engagement with recycling through, for example, consumer education and recycling events to build on their efforts and create the potential for additional collaborations.
- Expand opportunities for individuals with I/DD to develop micro-enterprises in the area of e-waste management and electronic recycling.
- Empower individuals with I/DD to earn living wages through the development of viable business enterprises that can be operated by chapters of The Arc.
- Identify and address health related concerns surrounding the processing of electronic waste.
- Include activities that take place in a variety of settings.
- Involve community members as volunteers, mentors, teachers, and peer supporters.
- Explore innovative ways to promote professional leadership for employees with I/DD.
- Promote and encourage business ownership by people with I/DD.

*\* Please be aware that this is not an exhaustive list of approaches to address these issues. The Arc encourages creative approaches that are participant directed and within the scope/intent of this request.*

## Applicant Qualifications

The Arc welcomes applications from Chapters that have:

- Paid affiliation fees to The Arc of the United States and are currently in good standing. Grantees must also remain in good standing with The Arc during the full contract duration of the sub-grant.
- A track record in planning, providing, evaluating or training in the area of recycling; experience with electronic waste recycling is preferred.
- Demonstrated capacity to plan, provide or evaluate services which incorporate core developmental disability policies and values such as inclusion and self-determination.
- Experience in working collaboratively with a variety of other public and private agencies, businesses, and organizations.
- Actively involved persons with I/DD in substantive, concrete aspects of project development, management, and implementation.

- Demonstrated knowledge of the range of existing supports and services in the communities in which they plan to implement the project. These supports and services include those which are focused specifically on persons with disabilities **and** those which are available for all citizens.
- Capacity and infrastructure to manage grant funds in such a way as to be transparent and to maintain accountability for all expenditures, including development and completion of required reports.

Grant funding is time limited. Consequently, applicant chapters must be able to develop specific strategies to help ensure long-term sustainability. To carry out the intent of this initiative, The Arc will make available up to \$270,000. The distribution of the funds will be in the form of up to ten \$27,000 grants. The quality of the grant proposals and the discretion of The Arc will determine the number of grant awards and the amount of each award. All grants are funded for one year only. The Arc urges applicants to focus their work on local activities. Additional funding in future years is possible, but by no means guaranteed. Grant awardees will be required to provide at least 25% of in-kind contributions or matching funds from the chapter's own resources or from other funding sources. Applicants are encouraged to use the prospect of possible funding from Walmart Foundation through this project to leverage additional funding from other sources to meet, or preferably exceed, the matching requirement.

**Grant applications must be received by 5:00 pm (EST), Friday, April 27, 2012 to The Arc office.**

Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals using a delivery method that provides a form of delivery confirmation; such as FedEx, UPS, or the United States Postal Service's "return receipt" option. Faxed and emailed RFP applications will not be accepted.

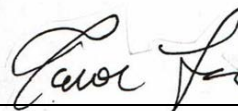
The Arc  
Attn. Lynell Tucker  
1825 K Street NW  
Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20006

## Attention All Applicants

Unless otherwise indicated, all grant awards will be required to provide 25% matching funds from the applicant chapter. All applications must reflect the active participation of people with developmental disabilities and their families in the development and implementation of the grant activities. In addition, preference will be given to those proposals demonstrating responsiveness to the beliefs, values, attitudes, cultural, ethnic, linguistic, or other traits enhancing maximum participation of and benefit to people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.



Peter V. Berns, Chief Executive Officer



Tonia Ferguson, Director of National Initiatives

# eXplore eRecycling: Sustainability Efforts in The Arc Network

## Notification of Intent to Apply

Please submit this intent to apply by 5:00 pm (EST), Wednesday, April 11, 2012.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in submitting an application for: *(Check all that apply)*

\_\_\_\_\_ RFP #1 4-2012 eXplore eRecycling: Sustainability Efforts in The Arc Network

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send grant application packet to: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will download the grant application packet from The Arc website ([www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org))

For additional information, a webinar for potential applicants will be available on The Arc website ([www.thearc.org](http://www.thearc.org)) April 2, 2012 thru April 27, 2012. Specific questions in relation to the RFP may be submitted in writing to Nichole Goble at [goble@thearc.org](mailto:goble@thearc.org). Questions will be compiled and responses made available in the form of a FAQ to be posted on The Arc website Friday, April 13, 2012 and again Friday, April 20, 2012.

**Grant applications must be received by 5:00 pm (EST), Friday, April 27, 2012 to The Arc office.**

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