



*For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities*

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Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services  
% Helen Lamont, Ph.D.  
HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation  
Room 424E, Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Dr. Lamont:

The Arc is a membership organization of over 700 state and local chapters made up of people with intellectual, developmental and other disabilities, their families, friends, interested citizens and professionals. The Arc has represented individuals with the most significant disabilities for over 60 years.

The Arc is particularly interested in the Council's Draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease since the disease has special significance for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The Arc was pleased that the draft plan made reference to people with intellectual disabilities in Strategy 2.H. However, we believe that the interests of people with intellectual disabilities should be infused throughout the plan rather than addressed in just two bullet points.

The Arc endorses the comments submitted to the Council by the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices (ntg). Each of the numerous immediate, near-term, and long-term recommendations for priority actions outlined in the draft plan pertains to individuals with intellectual disabilities. The needs of people with intellectual disabilities apply to all areas addressed in the draft plan - research, early identification, training of practitioners, support for family caregivers, community-based supports and services, and data collection and analysis.

Given the fact that people with intellectual disabilities are living longer, the number of individuals who have Alzheimer's disease and intellectual disabilities likely will increase. It is incumbent on the Advisory Council on Alzheimer's Research, Care, and Services to ensure that our nation's public health system is prepared.

Thank you for considering our input. Please contact The Arc if we may provide additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter Berns  
Executive Director

*Achieve with us.*