

Who's in the office?

Federal Disability Policy Advocacy

The Arc's Federal Policy Group promotes and protects the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities by advocating on a broad range of federal policy issues that affect their lives. The work includes: (a) legislative advocacy in Congress, (b) executive and regulatory advocacy with the Administration and officials of federal agencies, and (c) legal advocacy through participation in federal court litigation. The Arc's detailed Legislative Agenda defines the positions the organization takes on particular issues.

Chapter Excellence

The Chapter Excellence Group develops training and technical assistance resources to promote excellence in the governance, management and operations of our chapters, as well as in advancing best practices in programs, services and supports for people with I/DD and their families. In addition to making resources available through the "For Chapters" section of The Arc's website, the group plans the program for the annual convention and NCE meetings, provides webinars, develops The Arc's fact sheets and other helpful publications, and fields most information and referral calls/emails.

Chapter Organizing and Advocacy

The Chapter Organizing and Advocacy Group is responsible for the development and/or recruitment of new state and local chapters of The Arc and for coordinating and supporting advocacy at the state and local level.

National Initiatives

The National Initiatives Group is responsible for implementing specific programs and projects that are funded by grants from government, private foundations or other dedicated sources. The current focus is on three projects: (1) School-to-Community Transition, (2) Autism NOW and (3) eXplore eRecycling.

Research and Innovation

The Research and Innovations Group is responsible for developing innovative solutions for new program initiatives for people with I/DD and their families, engaging in strategic partnerships, and resource generation activities to advance the Strategic Framework for the Future of The Arc, 2010 – 2019. The Research and Innovations Group works closely with the National Initiatives Department to implement the projects.

Development, Marketing and Communications

The Development, Marketing and Communications Groups is responsible for a broad portfolio of activities for the organization as a whole, as well as in support of specific projects and activities. In the Development area, the group is responsible for all fundraising from individuals and corporations, with an emphasis on unrestricted support. The group works collaboratively with the Research and Innovations Group on project specific fundraising from foundations and corporations. In the Marketing area, the group is responsible for marketing all of The Arc's programs and events as needed. In the Communications area, the group is responsible for online and print communications, as well as media relations and public education.

Operating Group

The Operations Group is responsible for providing the physical, technology infrastructure and business systems for the organization, including financial management, human resources management, database systems, computer server and user support, and general office management. The group also provides meeting planning and logistics services for all of The Arc's major meetings and activities, and manages all National Membership Processing.

Specific Initiatives

The following are specific program initiatives that are currently under way as of January 1, 2012. Generally, a number of groups or departments are involved in production of these programs, with a particular group/department playing a leading role.

Projects

Don't Cut Our Lifeline Campaign

— In 2011, The Arc launched a grassroots organizing campaign to build support for ongoing Federal and state funding of Medicaid and prevent dismantling of the program.

The campaign puts an emphasis on having families tell their elected representatives about the importance of Medicaid to their loved one with I/DD and the family as a whole. A summer 2011 briefing for senior White House officials, and winter 2012 Community Leaders Briefing at the White House attended by President Obama, and other campaign activities are impacting the dialogue about Medicaid long term services and supports for people with I/DD. Related to this advocacy, The Arc established We've Got the Power, a non-partisan voter and candidate education campaign to sensitize candidates running for public office about the needs of people with I/DD and their families.



*DON'T CUT OUR
LIFELINE*

Autism Now: The National Autism Resource and Information Center

— Since late 2010, The Arc has received more than \$2.1 million from a grant from the Administration on Developmental Disabilities to develop a web-based information resource for people with ASD and other developmental disabilities and their families. In addition to the website, www.autismnow.org, the project conducts regular webinars and other educational activities for people on the spectrum and their family members.

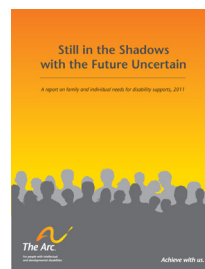


eXplore eRecycling Project — In 2012, with \$467,000 in support from Walmart Foundation, The Arc launched a new initiative focused on developing employment opportunities for people with I/DD in electronics recycling. Through a competitive process, \$275,000 in grants were provided to ten chapters of The Arc to pilot e-recycling programs.

Walmart School-to-Community Transition Initiative — With a \$3 million grant from Walmart Foundation, and an additional \$600,000 from an anonymous donor, The Arc is supporting 50 chapters that are engaged in various efforts to assist high school students' transition to adult life, including employment, community living and community participation. The chapters were selected in a competitive process from among 130 applicants. All participating chapters are required to provide matching funds and to participate in a uniform system of program evaluation.

Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS)

— FINDS is a national survey of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and of parents and other support providers or caregivers. A report, entitled *Still in the Shadows with the Future Uncertain*, was published in 2011 along with a detailed "Technical Report" with analysis conducted by the University of Minnesota Research and Training Center on Community Living.



Self-Advocates with FASD in Action (SAFA) — In 2011, with support from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (or SAMHSA) FASD Center on Excellence, The Arc launched an initiative to provide self-advocacy tracks for people with FASD (fetal alcohol spectrum disorder) at annual Building FASD State Systems conferences, leading it to pilot the first-of-its-kind national self-advocacy group created by and for people with FASD called "SAFA."

Alternative Educational Assessments — With subgrant support from the University of Kansas under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, The Arc is assisting in recruiting families, facilitating focus groups and collecting and disseminating information relevant to the development of alternative assessment tools for students with disabilities.

Standards for Excellence — As a “replication partner” of the Standards for Excellence Institute, The Arc is licensed to offer the Standards for Excellence program for chapters of The Arc. The centerpiece of the program is the Standards for Excellence: An Ethics and Accountability Code for the Nonprofit Sector, which provides a user friendly tool for benchmarking an organization’s governance and management practices in comparison to norms of nonprofit best practice. An extensive array of written educational materials are provided to assist chapters to implement any of the recommended practices. Discounted rates are offered for the third-party certification offered by the Institute.

Down Syndrome Grant Program — The Arc received two restricted gifts dedicating more than \$3 million for the care, education and support of people with Down syndrome in New Mexico; a smaller fund is dedicated to Down syndrome research. The Arc will be creating and implementing a grant program relating to these funds.

National Council of Self Advocates — The National Council of Self Advocates of The Arc (NCSA) is the formation of a group of leaders representing the full spectrum of ages and abilities across our national chapter network. By joining, individuals with I/DD will have the opportunity to network with other self advocates as well as to support the advocacy and programs of The Arc at all levels.

The Arc’s National Sibling Council — The Arc’s National Sibling Council welcomes all siblings and those who support siblings who are members of The Arc either at the local, state or national level. The Council will offer opportunities for networking, support, advocacy, and leadership development. Learn more about The Arc’s National Sibling Council.

Dynamic Learning Maps Research Project — With subgrant support from the University of Kansas under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, The Arc is conducting research with families about their experiences in alternative testing relating to their children with intellectual disabilities in the school systems to inform better testing methods.

HealthMeet — The Arc recently received a three year cooperative agreement from the Centers for Disease Control to promote the health of people with intellectual disabilities through health assessments, training of health professionals, health tracking, and public awareness.

NCE (National Council of Executives of The Arc)

— The Arc has a joint venture agreement with NCE to provide training, technical assistance and networking opportunities for chief executives, staff and volunteer leaders of chapters of The Arc. Membership in NCE requires a separate dues payment. A separate NCE website provides participating staff with access to dedicated resources, and discounts are available for webinars and other programs.



In addition, as part of the joint venture the following programs are offered annually:

Summer Leadership Institute — The Summer Leadership Institute is a two day conference that provides an opportunity for learning and networking by NCE members.

Pre-conference at Convention — A one-day pre-conference is offered at The Arc’s annual conference.

Major Events

Disability Policy Seminar — The Arc and several other organizations annually present a three-day disability policy conference in Washington, DC, with two days of high quality education about current public policy issues affecting people with I/DD. On the third day, participants visit and meet with their elected representatives.




National Convention — The Arc’s annual convention is held in the Fall of every year. The convention offers a quality learning and networking experience for board members and staff of state and local chapters of The Arc, as well as for self-advocates, parents, siblings and family members.

keep up with us online!

Social Media

 **Facebook:** The Arc of the US

 **Flickr:** The Arc

 **Twitter:** @TheArcUS

 **Google Plus:** The Arc of the United States

 **Youtube:** The Arc of the United States

Blogs

The Arc Blog: blog.thearc.org

Capitol Insider: insider.thearc.org



Achieve with us.

1825 K Street NW, Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006
800-433-5255
Contact us: info@thearc.org
www.thearc.org