Join Our Fight

The Arc of Indiana will celebrate our 66th anniversary in September and The Arc of the United States is celebrating 70 years of advocacy. While the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families look much different now than 70 years ago there is still much left to be done, and we, along with The Arc of the United States, are committed to continuing our advocacy efforts.

People with IDD are making tremendous gains, but there are still too many ...

➢ Schools utilizing seclusion and restraint on children with behavioral or mental health needs
➢ Young adults exiting school with no meaningful employment, educational or social options
➢ Potential employers who do not think about hiring people with IDD due to stigma and myths
➢ People with IDD who are employed not making a living wage or receiving benefits
➢ Individuals and families who are eligible for home and community based services not able to find providers or caregivers to provide critical supports
➢ Family caregivers who have to quit their jobs because they don’t have paid leave
➢ People with IDD in jails, prisons, and the juvenile justice system
➢ Aging parents with an adult son or daughter who have no plan for what will happen when they are no longer able to care for and support their loved ones

The lesson of The Arc’s years of advocacy is that advocacy—by people with IDD, by parents, by siblings, and other family and community members—makes the difference.

Join our fight to make sure that The Arc is prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of today and the future.

Scan the QR code or visit arcind.org/get-involved/sign-up to sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, legislative updates and action alerts.

“Disability rights are human rights,” Disability advocates gathered at the U.S. Capitol in support of The Arc US’s campaign to protect Medicaid

Visit arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters to find Indiana chapters of The Arc. Visit arcind.org/get-involved/membership to find information on becoming a member.
Throughout May, Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI) held regional meetings in the South, Central and Northern parts of the state to offer members who cannot travel to Indianapolis an opportunity to participate and give feedback. Sessions in the North and South were well attended. It was a good opportunity to make some great connections. Thank you to all who attended.

SAI has some new chapters who have joined us. We want to welcome Easterseals Crossroads, based in Indianapolis, as well as The Arc of Southwest Indiana. I LADD (Independent Living for Adults with Developmental/Intellectual Disabilities), based in Zionsville, will be joining shortly. We look forward to working with these new chapters. If your self-advocate group would like to find out more about becoming a SAI chapter or organizing a group, please contact us: saind.org/contact-us.

Speakers who are part of our Speakers Bureau have been busy meeting new people and sharing information with the public. Some of the topics covered include information on the self-advocacy movement, disability awareness, and the use of service dogs. Other speakers have participated in panel discussions to share information. If you would like to join our Speaker’s Bureau, become a part of our Career Counseling and Information Referral teams or work within the My Friend and Peer project, please contact us at saind.org/contact-us or send an email to Jill Smith at jsmith@arcind.org. We would love to share information about these opportunities with you.

Looking forward, we hope to see everyone at our annual picnic, taking place September 23rd, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. EST, Hummel Park, Charleston Pavilion, Plainfield, IN. Registration information will be posted on SAI’s website at: saind.org/events.
Message from The Arc of Indiana CEO
Kim Dodson

What an exciting time for The Arc of Indiana, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), their families and the entire state network of providers. Yes, I am certainly excited about all the opportunities the state is presenting as they move forward with their plan to utilize federal funding made available through the American Rescue Plan; but I am specifically excited right now because of what we are seeing in new growth for The Arc and all the people that depend on us each and every day.

Hopefully you have seen the announcement that we have brought two more chapters into The Arc family. A big welcome to Wabash Center in Tippecanoe County and LOGAN Community Resources, Inc. in St. Joseph County. Both of these organizations are well established in their local communities and well known for being providers of outstanding services and supports for people with disabilities. We have worked closely with them for decades as they have a strong mission and provided a tremendous resource for families. We are very excited to bring them into The Arc of Indiana as affiliated chapters so they can join us in spreading our mission and giving people options to receive services from chapters of The Arc that support our values and guiding principles.

What is even more exciting that we anticipate adding at least 4 more new, affiliated chapters by the end of 2022! This growth is no accident as The Arc of Indiana has been committed to building relationships with strong organizations for decades. However, during the years impacted by COVID, we heard from people and families about the importance of looking to organizations they could trust and rely upon. Then we heard from organizations that wanted to align themselves closer to The Arc because they embraced our values and where we are heading as an organization.

Certainly our growth brings with it change as now there may be more than one chapter of The Arc in a county – a change in practice for us. To us the change is necessary as we want to provide as many resources and choice as we can to people and their families. To some the change may be difficult as they feel they are losing some of their identity. We want to work with all of our chapters to help them embrace their fellow chapters and find ways to collaborate together.

We have focused recently on the parts of our state that do not seem to have any representation of The Arc. We are working with people with IDD and families to assess if it is possible to start a chapter that focuses exclusively on advocacy efforts or if it makes sense to partner with an area provider to help build that advocacy arm. Families have certainly expressed a strong desire to connect with The Arc locally and we want to work with them to assist in that effort and make it as easy as possible.

The timing for our growth could not be better. As new opportunities are and will become available for services and supports in our state and Medicaid Waiver redesign is again on the table, we are thrilled that chapters of The Arc will be able to engage in these opportunities and offer a range of positive choices for Hoosiers with disabilities.

Our mission of commitment to help people with IDD realize their dreams to live, learn, work and fully participate in their community of choice runs deep and guides us in all we do. We are extremely thankful to have a committed team of professionals that make our programs possible each and every day. Our board of directors are committed to sharing their experience and expertise as they guide us in our efforts. Our success is not by accident, it is because of our team and our board that strives to NOT accept the status quo – we are fortunate!

To find a chapter of The Arc in your area, visit: arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters

We are The Arc!
Throughout May and June, staff from The Arc of Indiana enjoyed traveling across the state to meet with our local chapters. Our 43, and growing, chapters range from large organizations that provide an array of services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), to small but mighty chapters that provide information, resources, and advocacy to people with IDD and their families. We appreciate the difference all of our chapters make in their community. Find a chapter in your area at arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters.
Indiana Education Scholarship Program Open

Eligible parents/guardians who have a child enrolled in special education services at a non-public school (and do not receive an Indiana Choice Scholarship) can apply to establish an Education Scholarship Account (ESA) for the 2022-2023 school year.

Indiana’s new Education Scholarship Account Program (Indiana ESA) allows eligible families who establish an ESA to receive 90% of the basic state tuition support allotted to their child. In addition, if their child receives special education services in a location outside of their geographically assigned school corporation, they will receive 100% of special education dollars allotted to their child.

Complete information is available at the state treasurer’s office website: in.gov/tos/inesa. Additional FAQ’s can be found at arcind.org/education-scholarship-accounts

Who is eligible?
Eligible students must:
• Be between the ages of 5-22 years old
• Have a disability that requires special education services and have an individualized education plan (IEP), individualized service plan (ISP), or a choice school education plan (CSEP)
• Choose NOT to enroll in a public school or receive an Indiana Choice Scholarship
• Meet the annual income qualification, currently 300% of the federal poverty limit, or receive free or reduced lunch

Who will not be eligible?
Students enrolled at a traditional public or public charter school are not eligible. (However, eligible students enrolled in a non-public school can use their ESA account to buy services from a traditional public or public charter school.)

How do I apply?
Complete an online application at in.gov/tos/inesa.

How will ESA funds be distributed?
Indiana’s state treasurer will contract with a third party to administer ESA funds via an online portal. Funds will be distributed quarterly to the ESA. You will have access to an account for each eligible child in your household.

What can ESA funds be used for?
ESA funds can only be used for pre-approved educational purposes. Qualified expenses include, but are not limited to:
• Educational services
• Tuition and fees at an approved non-public school, public school, or other participating entities, such as private tutoring
• Therapies such as physical, occupational, speech, and ABA therapy
• Additional services or therapies as prescribed by the student’s physician
• Paraprofessionals or educational aides
• Tuition and fees to attend eligible training programs and camps, including Camp EGTI, a summer program of The Arc of Indiana Foundation’s Erskine Green Training Institute
• Individual classes, extracurricular activities, or other items included in the student’s individualized learning plan, that are contracted and provided by the school corporation or other schools
• Transportation fees and fees for assessments

Does an ESA last the entirety of my child’s education?
Accounts must be renewed annually to ensure all account holders continue to meet the eligibility requirements. Preference will be given to account holders from the previous year.

Charting the LifeCourse

Individuals and families receiving services through Indiana’s Division of Disability and Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) may have heard of “Charting the LifeCourse.” DDRS has been working for several years to integrate the Charting the LifeCourse philosophy into programs and services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and The Arc of Indiana is committed to helping individuals and families utilize LifeCourse tools.

So, what is the Charting the LifeCourse? Charting the LifeCourse is a framework that was developed to help individuals and families of all abilities and at any age or stage of life develop a vision for a good life, think about what they need to know and do, identify how to find or develop supports, and discover what it takes to live the lives they want to live.

Individuals and families may focus on their current situation and stage of life but may also find it helpful to look ahead to start thinking about life experiences now that will help move them toward an inclusive, productive life in the future.

Even though the framework was originally developed for people with disabilities, it is designed universally, and can be used by any family making a life plan, whether they have a member with a disability or not.

Charting the LifeCourse tools can assist individuals and families in creating a vision for the future. It is designed to help you think about the questions to ask as well as the choices, options and life experiences to consider as you “plot a course” to a full and meaningful life. It is intended to be a starting point no matter where you are in your life journey.

Foundation of the LifeCourse Framework Core Belief:
All people have the right to live, love, work, play and pursue their life aspirations just as others do in their community.

Connect with the LifeCourse framework and free materials at lifecoursetools.com
Preparing for Medicaid Changes
When the Public Health Emergency Ends

During the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE), put in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic, states, including Indiana, have been prohibited from removing most people from Medicaid programs. For example, states could not remove someone due to an increase in income or change in “categorical eligibility” (e.g., pregnancy, age, disability) that would ordinarily make them ineligible for Medicaid. This prohibition will end when the federal PHE ends.

The Biden Administration has assured states that they will receive at least 60 days advanced notice of the end of the PHE. On May 16, it was announced that the PHE will extend past mid-July, and it could be extended further. When the PHE ends, states will have 12 months to evaluate the eligibility of virtually everyone receiving Medicaid to make sure they still qualify for the program. Medicaid recipients should make sure Indiana Medicaid has their current contact information. They should check their mail and be sure to respond to and return any Medicaid forms they receive.

Options for people no longer eligible for Medicaid when the PHE ends

Many people who lose their Medicaid coverage at the end of the PHE will have other coverage options.

- People who no longer meet eligibility requirements for the Medicaid category they applied under initially may qualify under a different Medicaid category.
- Many people no longer eligible for Medicaid can enroll in an affordable Marketplace plan at HealthCare.gov. Because losing Medicaid is a Qualifying Life Event, individuals will be able to enroll outside a regular enrollment period.
- Some children whose families lose Medicaid eligibility may be eligible for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
- Children with certain qualifying conditions, whose family income is below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level, may qualify for Children’s Special Health Care Services, a state funded program that can pay certain costs associated with specific health conditions.
- In some cases, a child receives Medicaid based on their disability, while the rest of the family may receive Medicaid based on income. It is important for families to monitor their child’s Medicaid status to make sure they are not kicked off Medicaid OR put in a Medicaid category that is not Medicaid Waiver compatible, if other family members lose Medicaid eligibility due to their income.

Have questions? Need assistance navigating health care coverage? We’re here to help. Contact us at 317-977-2375 or 800-382-9100 and ask to speak with a member of our family advocacy team.

2022 Interim Study Committees

The Indiana General Assembly is not in session, but there a number of study committees that The Arc of Indiana will be working with and monitoring over the next several months.

Interim Study Committee on Education
- Multiyear study to eliminate, reduce and streamline the education mandates placed on schools

Housing Task Force
- Review data on housing shortages in Indiana for low income and middle income households
- Review state laws that affect the local regulation of housing
- Review efforts in other states and municipalities to address housing shortages through changes to zoning and land use restrictions
  - Consider measures that would encourage increased housing options in Indiana, including:
    - Municipal incentives
    - State mandates
    - Eliminating or limiting single family only zones
    - Allowing greater housing density near transit, jobs, schools or neighborhood centers
- Discrimination in housing appraisals
Funders Offer Generous Support to EGTI

The Arc of Indiana Foundation is grateful for the generous backing of Duke Energy Foundation, J.A. and Elizabeth Lacy, and Healthcare Initiatives to support the Foundation’s Erskine Green Training Institute (EGTI).

Duke Energy Foundation
The Duke Energy Foundation has awarded $25,000 to support EGTI. The grant is part of awards totaling over $330,000 to 16 organizations working to create a pipeline of skilled workers prepared to meet Indiana’s workforce needs.

“Duke Energy is committed to helping Indiana’s workers obtain the skills and industry-recognized credentials needed to meet the state’s current and future labor market needs, with the ultimate goal of providing a better quality of life for the customers and communities we serve,” said Stan Pinegar, president of Duke Energy Indiana.

J.A. and Elizabeth Lacy
J.A. and Elizabeth Lacy have committed $350,000 in support of EGTI’s healthcare support training programs, now named Lacy Family Healthcare Programs. In addition, the Lacy family is sponsoring a Lacy Family Fundraising Match that will directly match contributions to EGTI.

The Lacy family learned directly about the value of EGTI’s vocational training program when their daughter, Julia, graduated from EGTI in 2020.

Healthcare Initiatives
Healthcare Initiatives has provided a gift of $25,000 to EGTI. Their mission is to support the advancement of human health and well-being.

“Since we opened our doors six years ago, more than 250 EGTI graduates have gone on to secure jobs and gain increased independence in their communities.” With the invaluable support of partners like The Duke Energy Foundation, the Lacy family, and Healthcare Initiatives we’re able to continue to help make the dream of having a career a reality for Hoosiers with disabilities,” said Andy Kirby, executive director of The Arc of Indiana Foundation.

Charting the LifeCourse – Employment

The Arc of Indiana is committed to increasing employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Tools individuals and families can use to develop an employment plan are available through the Charting the LifeCourse program.

Getting a job or career doesn’t just happen—it takes some planning. LifeCourse tools help facilitate the conversations, explore the vision, and plan the life experiences and supports to make it happen.

In the past, many people with disabilities have not had many chances to find employment in their community alongside their non-disabled peers. They commonly worked in jobs that were created just for people with disabilities and segregated from the rest of the community.

Today, the way we think about employment for a person with a disability has changed. People with disabilities can and do hold real community jobs as productive and valued employees. People with disabilities want to work and can work when the focus is on their skills, abilities, and interests.

Planning for employment can begin early and continue throughout the life course. LifeCourse tools can help individuals and families chart a path that leads to meaningful employment beginning in childhood, and continuing through young adulthood, adult life and then retirement.

Visit lifecoursetools.com to find tools to help you or your loved one discover interests, explore types of employment, plan for education or training needed to secure employment, think about career possibilities, and plan for supports that may be needed to be successful in employment.

Information provided by Charting the LifeCourse Nexus.
Regardless of your age, or your child’s age or disability, planning for the future is important. Planning should begin when a child is identified as having a disability and plans should continue to be updated and revised as they grow into adulthood. The individual with a disability should share in developing the plan, and it should reflect what that person would like for his or her life. Charting the LifeCourse offers a wide array of tools to help individuals and families plan for all phases of life. You can find them at lifecoursetools.com

Two important areas to think about and plan for include financial planning and preparing for when an individual turns 18.

All citizens become an emancipated adult at age 18. Many people with developmental disabilities just need informal assistance and guidance from others; in other cases there may be a need to establish legal guardianship. Information about guardianship and alternatives to guardianship can be found on our website at: arcind.org/future-planning

Supported Decision-Making as an Alternative to Guardianship

Thanks to legislation signed into Indiana law in 2019, less restrictive alternatives, including Supported Decision-Making (SDM), must be considered before a court appoints a guardian.

What is Supported Decision-Making (SDM)? SDM is a way to support and accommodate the decision making process. It empowers people with disabilities to use their own support systems, including family, to obtain information and make their own decisions instead of having someone else make decisions for them. In SDM, the person chooses supporters to help with the decision-making process, but the person makes the final decision. The supporters and the types of support needed are often written down into a supported decision-making agreement.

Who can use SDM? SDM can be used by anyone, with any disability or condition, including persons with mental health issues, chronic illness, or conditions of aging. Because we often assume people with disabilities won’t make good decisions or don’t know how to make decisions, we don’t give them opportunities to do so. Instead, people should be given opportunities to build decision-making skills in a meaningful way so they can have the same dignity of risk and opportunity to learn that we all enjoy.

How is SDM different from Power of Attorney? In SDM the person makes the final decision. Powers of Attorney generally allows a person to give decision-making authority to someone else in certain situations or at certain times. In SDM, the person retains decision-making authority instead of granting someone else decision-making authority.

Do SDM agreements need to be on a special form? No. SDM agreements put the decision-making supports in writing so that the person and whomever they have chosen as their supporters understand how the relationship will work. SDM agreements can also be used to show doctors, service providers, and others who may question the person’s ability to make decisions, that they are able to make their own decisions, even if they are using accommodations in the decision-making process.

Does a court need to approve a SDM agreement? No. In general, only guardianships need to be approved by a court. SDM agreements don’t need to be filed in court in order to be effective. As SDM becomes more common, judges considering guardianship petitions will become more aware of the many alternatives available and may consider less restrictive alternatives like SDM if they are appropriate.

Financial Planning

It is never too early to begin planning for the financial future of a loved one with a disability. Two programs that can help include establishing an ABLE Account and/or establishing a special needs trust. The Arc of Indiana Master Trust is one option for establishing a special needs trust.

INvestABLE Indiana

Following the passage of legislation in 2016, the Indiana Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Authority developed Indiana’s ABLE program, INvestABLE Indiana. ABLE accounts, also known as 529A accounts, allow individuals with disabilities to save for their future and pay for disability related expenses without jeopardizing access to public benefits. The account allows for tax-free savings to cover qualified disability related expenses including, but not limited to, education, transportation, housing and medical needs.

Visit in.gov/tos/able

The Arc Master Trust

The Arc Master Trust offers families and people of all disabilities an experienced, professional option for special needs trust administration at an affordable price, allowing resources to be saved and easily used for qualified disability and personal expenses. We offer two trust programs.

Trust I, established in 1988, helps families provide for the financial future of their loved one without affecting eligibility for government benefits.

Trust II, established in 1995, allows people with disabilities to save their own money in a trust while maintaining eligibility for government benefits.

Visit thearctrust.org

Offering experienced, professional, affordable special needs trust programs for people of all disabilities.

The Arc Master Trust

thearctrust.org
Circles of Support

Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean.

Mission Circle

Donna Elbrecht, President/Chief Executive Officer
Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana works to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities succeed at home, at work, and at play. Easterseals Arc offers a broad range of services including employment services, day programs, residential services, recreation, respite, and support in the community and at home. Mission: Our purpose is to change the way the world defines and views disability by making profound, positive differences in people’s lives every day.

easterseals.com/neindiana

Kate Barrow, Executive Director
The Indiana Governor’s Council for People with Disabilities is an independent state agency that facilitates change. The Council receives and disseminates federal funds to support innovative programs that are visionary, influence public policy, empower individuals and families and advocate systems change.

Mission: To advance the independence, productivity and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of society. This mission is accomplished through planning, evaluation, collaboration, education, research and advocacy.

GovCPCD

Dan Strick, President/Chief Executive Officer
New Star

New Star serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana.

Mission: To provide choices and opportunities for persons with disabilities and their families through a culture of innovation and caring to enrich their lives and maximize their independence

newstarservices.org

Nash Dunn, Interim Executive Director
KC ARC

Since 1972, KCARC, The Arc in Knox County, has led the effort to effectively play a positive role in lives of those who have disabilities within their community. KCARC has been at the forefront of Knox County by being an economic asset, a major employer, and a haven for individuals and families served.

Mission: To advocate and provide opportunities in a dignified and respectful manner for the total well-being of individuals and families with special needs.

knoxcountyardc.com

John Dickerson, Founder/CEO
Quillo Connect

Quillo Connect is an empowering digital platform for sharing stories of success, resources, and knowledge for all people within the intellectual and developmental disabilities community. Built on the principles of Charting the LifeCourse, Quillo Connect is a daily tool to help individuals and families to educate, engage, and inspire their circles of support for building the good life.

Mission Statement: With Quillo Connect, we focus on what’s possible through motivating messages that help build community, equity, and belonging for the respect and well-being of ourselves and others.

myquillo.com/connect

Advocacy is the core of The Arc of Indiana’s mission. Key to that mission is The Arc Advocacy Network’s team of family advocates who work tirelessly to provide a critical circle of support to families and people with disabilities. We greatly appreciate the key organizations and trusted partners who have joined in support of our advocacy efforts through our 2022 Circles of Support initiative.

Save the Dates!

We are excited to share dates for our 2022 events! Be sure to mark your calendars!

September 23
Self-Advocates of Indiana Picnic
Hummel Park, Plainfield

November 30
The Arc of Indiana & Self-Advocates of Indiana Conference
2022 Impact Awards
Virtual