

## A World of Opportunity

The theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2024 is **A World of Opportunity**—a perfect theme to reflect on the history, mission and continued work of The Arc.

The Arc of Indiana was founded in 1956 when families joined together to create opportunities for their children to live, learn, work and fully participate in their communities. Over the years families, leaders of The Arc at the local, state and national level, and self-advocates – people with disabilities who advocate for themselves – have continued to work together to grow those opportunities.

We are particularly proud of the work of The Arc Advocacy Network, which is supported by sponsors of our Circles of Support Initiative. Following are The Arc Advocacy Network’s core programs and services.

If you are seeking information or help and support, don’t hesitate to contact us at 317-977-2375, 800-382-9100 or [thearc@arcind.org](mailto:thearc@arcind.org) and ask to speak with a family advocate.

### TheArc@School

The Arc of Indiana partnered with the LIDS Foundation in 2023 to provide information on special education rights and how to navigate the special education system to over 100 families through TheArc@School, an online training program. In addition, we hosted focus groups with TheArc@School participants to answer questions and dig deeper into special education issues.

### Advocacy Leadership Network

A new program of The Arc Advocacy Network is the Advocacy Leadership Network, which focuses on foundational leadership and advocacy training. It began with a core group of 12 Advocacy Leadership Fellows and expanded to over 180 participants. Advocacy Leadership Fellows completed a 12-week curriculum and led peer to peer discussions, called Good Life Groups, focused on lived experiences within Charting the LifeCourse life domains: daily life and employment, community living, social and spiritual, healthy living, safety and security, and advocacy and engagement.

### Peer to Peer Mentors

An outgrowth of the Advocacy Leadership Network is the establishment of a new peer mentor program. After completing a training program, 31 mentors were matched with 35 mentees to assist them in developing their own personal vision of a good life and how to take steps to achieve their goals.

### CCIR – Career Counseling Information and Referral

Our Career Counseling Information and Referral (CCIR) project provides information to people working in sheltered workshops at subminimum wage on employment opportunities. Providers have responded by transitioning from sheltered work to developing job training programs, raising wages to minimum wage and converting to innovative day programs. In 2023, presentations were made to over 1500 people resulting in 640 referrals for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

### Medicaid Story Telling

A grant from The Arc of the United States assisted us in developing a Medicaid Story Telling project that allowed us to work closely with self-advocates and families across Indiana to identify barriers to Medicaid and learn about the impact of Medicaid policies and practices to better focus advocacy efforts. We are pleased that we have been awarded a new grant to continue this important project. Learn more on page 8.



### Family Advocates

Our team of family advocates assists and guides individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across ages, programs and services. In 2023, they assisted over 3800 people seeking information and direct advocacy on a wide range of issues, conducted 34 presentations reaching over 1200 people, and exhibited at 68 events, reaching over 29,000 people.

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN  
PERMIT NO. 1715

Printed on recycled paper

The Arc of Indiana  
143 W. Market St.  
Suite 200  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
317-977-2375

# Home and Community Based Supports: How They Bring Freedom—Why We Need to Expand Them

*Lexi Westerfield*

As an individual with multiple physical, psychiatric, and developmental disabilities I rely heavily on home and community based services and supports to remain as independent as possible and to continue to seek my vision for a good life. Achieving a vision for a good life is what I hope for all people with disabilities. Having, the right home and community based supports are crucial to achieve that vision.

Home and community based services let us have that vision, but it's just the beginning. It's important that we expand these services, and I will tell you why.

I have done so much with the help of home and community based services. I have attended college, have had opportunities to be less dependent on family, and have had assistance finding resources which lead to my job. I get assistance with my activities of daily living. I get the opportunity to explore the community and do things I enjoy around town, and I get to meet some great people in the process. This may sound like sunshine and rainbows, right? Nope.

I have been hindered. I have missed out on opportunities due to shortages of staff and resources. Low pay, lack of training, and other disparities make staffing difficult for providers.

Finding supports and appropriate resources that work well for individuals can be challenging. I know this from experience. I have found it difficult to find a Medicaid waiver that is a good fit. The



Lexi Westerfield at The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana 2023 Impact Awards Celebration where she received the Darcus Nims Self-Advocate of the Year Award.

Aged and Disabled Waiver was not an appropriate match for me. The Family Supports Waiver, though more of an appropriate fit, limits my resources. With the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver being an emergency waiver, I am finding it difficult to obtain. I cannot be the only individual experiencing this issue.

Another struggle individuals and families are having is being in the dark about resources. I was fortunate to have been made aware of the waivers by medical providers, but many medical providers are not aware. I was also not made aware by my educators when I was approaching transition and I feel that transition is such an important time to be made aware of these supports.

You may be wondering how we can make waves in home

and community based services and supports. It's all in coming together to use our collective voice. We need to research, talk about, and write about these issues. It's important to stay tuned, spread the word, and write to our legislators. There are a lot of up and coming changes going on in the coming months and years within the Division of Disability Rehabilitative Services (DDRS) regarding Waiver Redesign so stay informed!

Lastly, I want to share that it is important to always remind ourselves and each other that we must not sit down and be quiet, but stand strong as advocates and leaders for change.

## About the Author

Lexi Westerfield is a 31-year-old blind and autistic self-advocate who is also a wheelchair user. She works for The Arc of Indiana and Self-Advocates of Indiana (SAI) through The Advocacy Leadership Network, Speakers Bureau, and as a Good Life Group Coordinator. She also serves on SAI's board of directors.

## Your Vote Has Power!

Are you ready to vote in Indiana's primary on Tuesday, May 7, 2024? This is your opportunity to vote for Presidential, Congressional, and State candidates for office.

Registration Deadline:  
Monday, April 8

Last day to request an absentee ballot:  
Request for Postal Ballot by  
Thursday April 25  
In-Person Request by  
Monday, May 6, 12:00 p.m.

Early Voting (in person):  
April 9 – May 6

**Election Day: Tuesday, May 7**

**Visit**  
**[indianavoters.in.gov](https://indianavoters.in.gov) to:**

- Register to Vote
- Check Voting Status
- Apply to Vote by Mail or Traveling Board
- Find Your Polling Place
- Find Who's on the Ballot

## SAVE THE DATE

Self-Advocates of Indiana  
Annual Picnic  
September 20, 2024  
Hummel Park, Plainfield, IN

# A World of Opportunities

Kim Dodson, CEO

“A World of Opportunities,” the theme for Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month 2024, means different things to different people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Some share that they want the opportunity to live more independently, receive postsecondary training or go to college, and have a meaningful job. Others look forward to traveling, connecting with peers, or being able to get married without penalizing benefits. Really not so different than people without disabilities.

The Arc of Indiana is committed to all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities realizing their goals of living, learning, working and fully participating in the community of their choice. We are all about creating opportunities alongside people with IDD.

This edition of our newsletter showcases organizations and their leaders who stand with The Arc as we create those opportunities and provide critical information and advocacy to people with IDD and their families. No one can do this work alone. We are extremely fortunate to have a network of 44 chapters covering 68 counties, and members of our Circles of Support initiative, including eight in our Mission Circle, who believe and know that people with disabilities can do amazing things.

This year started off rough with the announcement of a nearly one billion Medicaid deficit and next the Family and Social Services Administration announcement that they will address the deficit in part

on the backs Indiana’s most vulnerable citizens, medically fragile children, by ending the practice of allowing parents of minor children to be paid to provide crucial care.

Thanks to the commitment of our chapters and Circles of Support members, we were quickly able to produce fact sheets, webinars, and more to educate the public and educate and advocate alongside impacted families. Indiana has a nearly 3 billion dollars surplus. It is hard to understand why the state is choosing to eliminate opportunities for families to provide care for their loved one at home rather than exploring other ways to address a deficit that still has not been completely explained.

Indiana as a state has come so far in services and supports for people with disabilities over the decades but we still must push the state to go further. We need to stand together to eliminate barriers to employment and people achieving the careers they want. We need to eliminate the social security marriage penalty. We need to figure out transportation and housing issues so that people can travel and live as they want and need to. We need to expand quality home and community based services.

“A World of Opportunity” is what all people want and deserve. We pledge to continue our work to make those opportunities a reality.



## Talks With The Arc Trust Webinar Series



Join Sarah on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 12:00 p.m. EDT, for Talks with The Arc Trust Register @ [thearctrust.org/webinars-videos](https://thearctrust.org/webinars-videos)

Talks with The Arc Trust covers options that people of all disabilities, people with mental illness, and people 65+ have when saving for the future, the ins and outs of those options, and how they work with various government benefits.

Find all of our webinars @ [youtube.com/TheArcofIndiana](https://youtube.com/TheArcofIndiana) | [advocacy.thearcacademy.org](https://advocacy.thearcacademy.org)

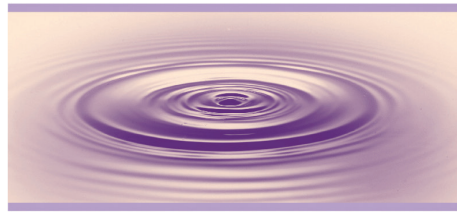
## Ask The Arc Webinar Series



Join Karly on the 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:00 p.m. EDT, for Ask the Arc Register @ [arcind.org/event/ask-the-arc-webinars](https://arcind.org/event/ask-the-arc-webinars)

Ask The Arc provides information and discussion on topics relevant to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families, and their support systems.

Find all of our webinars @ [youtube.com/TheArcofIndiana](https://youtube.com/TheArcofIndiana) | [advocacy.thearcacademy.org](https://advocacy.thearcacademy.org)



# Circles of Support

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

The Arc of Indiana has served as the state's leading advocacy organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for over 67 years. Our advocacy efforts continue to be the core of our 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.

To support our advocacy mission, key organizations and trusted partners have joined in support of our efforts through our Circles of Support initiative.

Our Mission Circle is our most exclusive Circle, available to organizations that make a significant commitment to ensure our advocacy work throughout the state will continue for years to come.

No words can express our appreciation and gratitude for their support. Without them, The Arc of Indiana would have to rethink the way we provide our advocacy resources to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Thanks to their strong commitment, we have not only been able to maintain our statewide advocacy efforts but have also expanded our reach and impact.

*Please join us in celebrating members of The Arc of Indiana's Mission Circle.*

## Circles of Support Mission Circle Members



THE NATIONAL  
BANK OF INDIANAPOLIS

Mark Bruin, President & Chief Executive Officer

**Mission: To be the undisputed leader in delivering outstanding banking service in Greater Indianapolis.**

The National Bank of Indianapolis is a proud financial partner with The Arc of Indiana and provides expert banking, administration and investment management services for The Arc and its clients. The Arc of Indiana Master Trust Funds are safely and securely on deposit at The National Bank of Indianapolis.

The National Bank of Indianapolis also provides a full range of depository, loan and investment management services to individuals and businesses throughout central Indiana. The Bank also recognizes the importance of nonprofit organizations in our community. That's why they offer a comprehensive array of special services to accommodate the banking needs of nonprofits and help them maximize their financial resources.

As the largest locally-owned bank in greater Indianapolis, The National Bank of Indianapolis is committed to supporting the communities it serves. The Bank's employees, officers and directors are all dedicated to supporting the local community by serving on boards and committees, volunteering, and providing promotional support and financial assistance.

[nbofi.com](http://nbofi.com)



Karen Brummet, Chief Executive Officer

**Vision: IPMG envisions the individuals we support will live quality, self-determined lives as integral and valued members of their communities.**

Indiana Professional Management Group (IPMG) is Indiana's preeminent statewide provider of case management and care management services for participants in the state's Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Medicaid Waiver program, and wraparound facilitation services for participants in the Child Mental Health Wraparound program and Children's Mental Health Initiative (CMHI). They are a certified Medicaid Waiver provider and serve individuals who receive the Family Supports, Community Integration and Habilitation, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Aged and Disabled Waivers and Indiana's Wraparound Program.

The mission of IPMG is to be an exceptional organization that supports individuals as they live their best lives by working with individuals, in collaboration with those who support them, to achieve their personal dreams, ambitions, and goals; providing their employee-owners with the resources they need to do their jobs exceptionally well; expanding the services IPMG provides; and consistently performing at a best-in-class level.

[gotoipmg.com](http://gotoipmg.com)

## Circles of Support Mission Circle Members continued



*Erhardt Preitauer, President & CEO*

**Mission: To invest in initiatives and organizations that make a lasting difference in our members' lives and communities by improving their health and well-being.**

CareSource is a nationally recognized, nonprofit managed care organization. Founded in 1989, CareSource offers a variety of health insurance plans, including Medicaid, Medicare and Health Insurance Marketplace products. As a mission-driven and member-centric organization, CareSource is transforming health care by providing innovative programs to members in a growing number of states, including Indiana.

CareSource is also reinventing traditional health care models with next-generation social determinants programs designed to improve health, foster well-being and enhance self-sufficiency.

The CareSource Foundation believes in people, organizations and initiatives that actively work to improve the physical and mental health and well-being of individuals residing in the CareSource service areas. They believe that passion, knowledge and vision create positive, long-lasting change, and that meaningful collaboration creates strong partnerships with grantees.

[caresource.com](http://caresource.com)



*Tauhric Brown, President & CEO*

**Mission: CICOA empowers older adults, those of any age with a disability, and their caregivers by providing the innovative answers, services, and**

**support they need to achieve the greatest possible independence, dignity, and quality of life.**

Established in 1974, CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions is a not-for-profit agency that helps seniors and people of any age with a disability remain comfortably and safely at home and out of institutional care. They advocate for elder and disability friendly communities and compassionate, cost-effective, long term care options.

Serving Boone, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Johnson, Marion, Morgan and Shelby Counties, CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions works to make Central Indiana a community where older adults and those of any age with a disability can flourish.

Services provided by CICOA include care management, home accessibility modifications, senior meals and nutrition, transportation, caregiver support, and counseling.

[cicoa.org](http://cicoa.org)



*Nash Dunn, President*

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

Since 1972, KCARC, The Arc in Knox County, has led the effort to have a positive role in lives of people with disabilities in their community.

KCARC's focus is to improve the lives of families with disabilities through their programs and services, including manufacturing, employment job training, adult day services, behavior management services, early childhood developmental programs, school-aged children transition services, and 1972, a unique community fun center.

At 1972, individuals receiving services from KCARC can choose to participate in a wide array of activities. Community members also join in the fun at 1972. Just some of the activities include rock wall climbing, basketball, laser tag, human foosball, arts and crafts, computer gaming, and karaoke. It has become a true community asset, seamlessly linking all community members together.

[knoxcountyarc.com](http://knoxcountyarc.com)



*Gus van den Brink, Interim CEO/President*

*Kelly Berardelli, Interim Executive Director*

**Mission: To empower individuals with disabilities, their families, and those living with mental illness to achieve personal success by providing choices and opportunities.**

Vision Statement: Building a future where all people with disabilities and those living with mental illness live, work, and fully participate as productive and valued citizens in society.

Sertoma Star Services, doing business in Indiana as New Star, is an affiliated chapter of The Arc in Lake and Porter Counties.

New Star was formed in 2016 through a merger of SouthSTAR Services and New Hope Center, Inc., both created by parents of children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sertoma Star Services was established in 2023 through a merger of New Star and Sertoma Centre, two agencies with rich histories of providing state-of-the-art services and programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and those living with mental illness.

The agency serves over 1,700 children and adults in and around the Chicagoland area and Northwest Indiana. Services include community employment, family caregiver training, community-based programming, residential programs, participant assistance and care, and recreational therapy.

[sertomastar.org](http://sertomastar.org) | [newstarservices.org](http://newstarservices.org)



*John Dickerson, Founder/CEO*

**Mission: Quillo Connect provides an empowering platform for sharing stories, resources and knowledge for people with disabilities, support staff, and their families.**

Quillo Connect was founded by John Dickerson, The Arc of Indiana's former executive director following his retirement after leading The Arc for 42 years.

Available on smartphone, tablet, or desktop, Quillo Connect offers a unique communication platform and video library focused on connections and information. Families and individuals with IDD (including those who do and do not receive services) can explore the video library and connect with others.

Quillo Connect uses micro-learning, positive psychology, success stories, and the Charting the LifeCourse Nexus framework to raise expectations and build a good life.

[myquillo.com/connect](http://myquillo.com/connect)

# Circles of Support Recognition

Join us in thanking all of our Circles of Support members

## Mission Circle

The National Bank of Indiana  
 CareSource  
 CICOA  
 IPMG  
 KCARC  
 Sertoma Star Services  
*Doing business in Indiana  
 as New Star*  
 Quillo Connect

## Dream Circle

ICEArc

## Ally Circle

Duke Energy  
 Katz, Sapper & Miller  
 Tilson  
 United Healthcare

## Friend Circle

Gibson Insurance  
 Hylant  
 Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis  
 Prolific  
 Special Olympics Indiana  
 Stone Belt Arc  
 The Arc Southwest Indiana  
 The Arc of Wabash County  
 The Arc of the Wabash Valley  
 Unity of Indiana  
 Wabash Center

# Empowerment Circle

The Empowerment Circle, established in 2023, includes dedicated individuals and families that believe in the importance of The Arc of Indiana’s critical advocacy efforts and have made a substantial financial gift. We could not make the impact that we do without the following individuals.

### ◆ Gold

Don Collins



### Bronze

Judy Abbott

Jeffrey & Susan Bassett

Adam Brown

Karen Brummet

Tyson Chastain

Dr. Mary Ciccarella

David & Stephanie Clements

Wayne & Lynne Eckerle

Mark & Kathy Hisey

Mark & Chris Kevitt

Andy & Kaity Kirby

Clint McKay

Cody Mullen

Anne Lammert

Sean & Michele Trivedi

Jill Vaught

John Wechsler

John & Susan Whitaker

### Silver ◆

Arvie & Kelly Anderson

Kim & Steve Dodson



Our Advocacy Leadership Training program, which focuses on foundational leadership and advocacy training, began with a core group of 12 Advocacy Leadership Fellows and has expanded to over 180 participants.



We appreciate our team of family advocates, including Ofelia Jimenez Sahagun, who assist families and people with disabilities throughout the state. They also enjoy sharing information at local events. To connect with our advocacy team, call 317-977-2375 and ask to speak with a family advocate. If you would like The Arc of Indiana to exhibit at an event in your area, email us at [thearc@arcind.org](mailto:thearc@arcind.org).

For information on joining Circles of Support, including our new Empowerment Circle for individuals and families, please contact Alex Parker.

[aparker@arcind.org](mailto:aparker@arcind.org)  
 or 317-977-2375

# Chapters of The Arc – Achieve Your Dreams

April 1, 2024, kicks off our 2024 membership campaign, “Achieve Your Dreams.” If you are not already a member of The Arc through a chapter, we encourage you to join! If there is not a chapter in your area, you can support and connect with The Arc by becoming an at-large member with The Arc of Indiana. You can find information and join at: [arcind.org/get-involved/membership](http://arcind.org/get-involved/membership).

Chapters of The Arc work for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to help them achieve their dreams. We are proud of our 44 chapters, covering 68 counties, that serve and advocate for and with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families throughout the state, making us the largest state chapter of The Arc in the United States. 20 of our chapters are “Advocacy Chapters.” While they do not provide direct services to people with IDD, they serve their community with information, resources, and local advocacy. 24 of our chapters provide a wide variety of services as well as advocacy to children and/or adults with developmental disabilities and their families.

While our chapters do not all use “The Arc” in their name, all of our chapters are proud to be affiliated with The Arc, the largest national community-based organization serving and advocating for and with people with IDD and their families.

Chapters are always

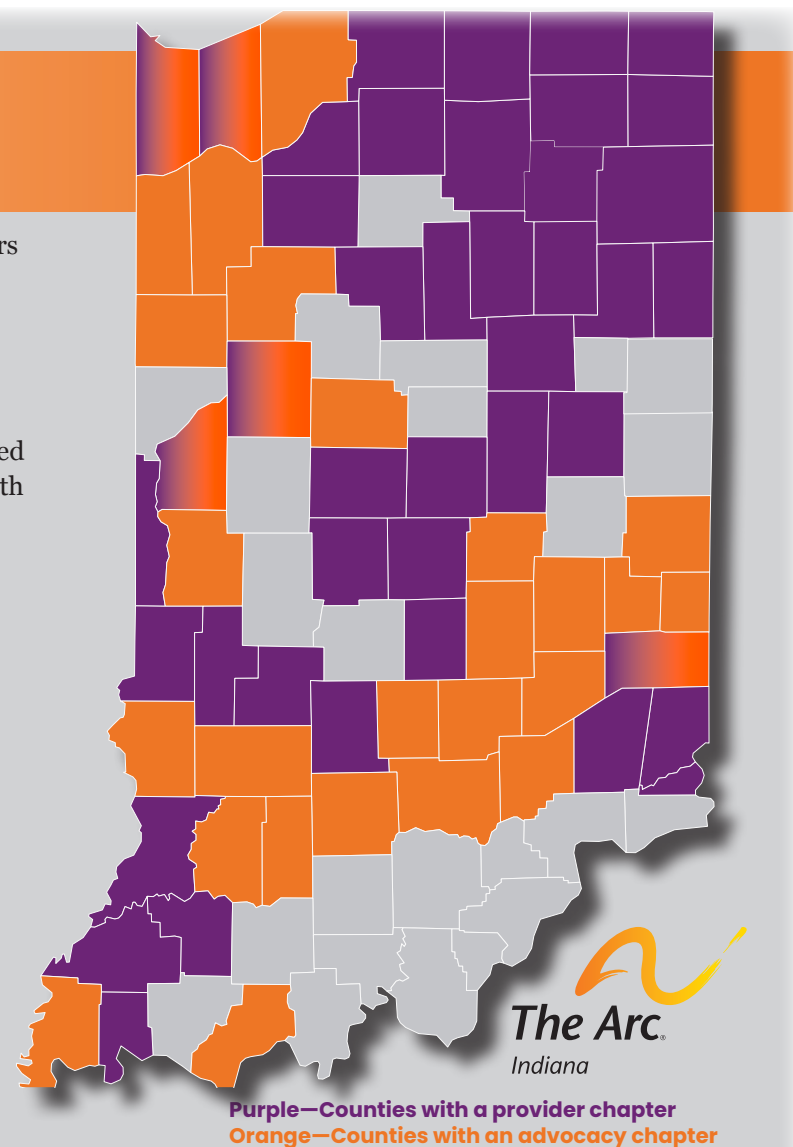
seeking new members and volunteers to join The Arc family. When you become a member of a chapter, you also become a member of The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States. You can find chapter information at: [arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters](http://arcind.org/about-the-arc/local-chapters).



## The Arc of Indiana Provider and Advocacy Chapters

The Arc of Indiana’s 44 chapters cover 68 counties. Chapters that provide direct services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are noted in purple. Chapters that provide advocacy, information and support are noted in orange. While our chapters do not all use “The Arc” in their name, all of our chapters are proud to be affiliated with The Arc, the largest national community-based organization serving and advocating for and with people with IDD and their families.

- Adams – Bi-County Services
- Allen – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
- Bartholomew – The Arc of Bartholomew County
- Benton – Hoosier Prairie Arc
- Boone – The Arc of Greater Boone County
- Brown – The Arc of Brown County
- Cass – Peak Community Services
- Clay – The Arc of the Wabash Valley
- Clinton – The Arc of Clinton County
- Daviess – Daviess-Martin Rehabilitative Services
- Dearborn – The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons
- Decatur – The Arc of Decatur County
- DeKalb – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
- Delaware – Hillcroft Services
- Elkhart – ADEC
- Fayette – Achieva Resources
- Fountain – The Arc of the Wabash Valley & The Arc of Fountain County
- Franklin – The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons & Achieva
- Grant – The Arc of Wabash County
- Gibson – The Arc Southwest Indiana
- Greene – Green County Arc
- Hamilton – Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis
- Hancock – The Arc of Hancock County
- Hendricks – Sycamore Services
- Huntington – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
- Jackson – The Arc of Jackson County
- Jasper – Hoosier Prairie Arc
- Jennings – The Arc of Jennings County
- Johnson – The Arc of Johnson County/ Gateway Services
- Knox – KCARC
- Kosciusko – Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana/ Cardinal Services
- LaGrange – The Arc of LaGrange County
- Lake – New Star & The Arc Northwest Indiana
- La Porte – The Arc Northeast Indiana
- Lawrence – The Arc of Lawrence County
- Madison – Hopewell Center
- Marion – Noble/The Arc of Greater Indianapolis
- Marshall – Marshall-Starke Developmental Services (MSDS)
- Martin – Daviess-Martin Rehabilitative Services
- Miami – The Arc of Wabash County
- Monroe – Stone Belt Arc
- Newton – Hoosier Prairie Arc
- Noble – The Arc Noble County Foundations



- Ohio – The Arc of Southwest Indiana/New Horizons
- Owen – Sweet Owen Industries
- Parke – The Arc of the Wabash Valley
- Pike – The Arc Southwest Indiana
- Porter – New Star & The Arc Northeast Indiana
- Posey – The Arc of Posey County
- Pulaski – Peak Community Services
- Ripley – The Arc of Southeast Indiana/New Horizons
- Rush – The Arc of Rush County
- St. Joseph – LOGAN Community Resources
- Shelby – The Arc of Shelby County
- Spencer – The Arc of Spencer County
- Starke – Marshall-Starke Developmental Services (MSDS)
- Steuben – Easterseals Rise
- Sullivan – Sullivan County Area Rehabilitation
- Tippecanoe – Wabash Center & The Arc of Tippecanoe County
- Union – Achieva Resources
- Vanderburgh – The Arc of Evansville
- Vermillion – The Arc of the Wabash Valley
- Vigo – The Arc of the Wabash Valley
- Wabash – The Arc of Wabash County
- Wayne – Achieva Resources
- Wells – Bi-County Services
- White – Hoosier Prairie Arc
- Whitley – Easterseals Passages

## 2024 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

The 2024 session of the Indiana General Assembly ended on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Nearly all of The Arc of Indiana's priority legislation came down to the wire in the last minutes of the session.

### Attendant Care & Structured Family Caregiving

In December 2023, the Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) announced the state is facing a nearly one billion dollar Medicaid deficit. It came as a shock to families and advocates that they will address the deficit, in part, by ending the practice of allowing Legally Responsible Adults (LRIs) - parents of minor children and spouses - to be paid to provide attendant care to their medically fragile child or spouse. FSSA will instead only allow LRI's to be paid for structured family caregiving at a much lower reimbursement rate.

The Arc of Indiana worked alongside families and other advocates to urge legislators to address this critical issue. While we achieved significant support in the House to continue to allow LRIs to provide attendant care, and/or create an additional tier with a higher reimbursement rate within structured family caregiving, we were not able to gain support in the Senate.

We were successful in working with the House and Senate to pass HB 1102 that:

- ◆ Requires FSSA to establish a minimum percentage of the reimbursement rate paid to structured family caregiving and attendant care provider agencies that must be passed through to the person providing the service.
- ◆ Requires FSSA to report on the transition from attendant care provided by LRIs to structured family caregiving and the impact of the transition on families.
- ◆ Requires FSSA to develop a detailed plan for monitoring and projecting Medicaid expenditures with improved transparency.

We thank Representatives Ed Clere, Chris Judy, Becky Cash, Greg Porter, Cherrish Pryor, Ed DeLaney, and Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch for their dedicated support of families on this issue throughout the session. Going forward we will closely monitor the transition and work to keep this issue in the forefront.

### Medicaid Waivers and IDD Task Force

Legislation was approved in HB 1067 to:

- ◆ Establish a special service review team to review denied applications and applications for which a determination has not been made for the Community Integration and Habilitation Waiver.
- ◆ Make changes to the criteria considered for an emergency Medicaid Waiver.
- ◆ Require the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Task Force to establish a subcommittee to make recommendations regarding the Medicaid buy-in program and benefit related barriers to employment for individuals with IDD.
- ◆ Change the expiration date of the task force from December 31, 2025, to December 31, 2024.

### Seclusion and Restraint in Schools

Legislation was approved in HB 1380 to:

- ◆ Require the commission on seclusion and restraint in schools to include eliminating or minimizing the need for the use of time-out in its model restraint and seclusion plan.
- ◆ Require the commission to meet biannually (instead of annually, under current law).
- ◆ Require the commission to submit a biannual report to the state advisory council on the education of children with disabilities.

The Arc of Indiana serves on the Seclusion and Restraint Commission and will share progress on this issue.

## EGTI—Opening a World of Opportunities in Employment

The Arc of Indiana Foundation's Erskine Green Training Institute's (EGTI) mission is to provide opportunities for postsecondary vocational training for people with disabilities that empower and lead to meaningful employment.

EGTI provides vocational training for a variety of jobs in the hotel, food service, healthcare support and inventory distribution environments. We are excited to share that EGTI is expanding programming from its current

location in Muncie, Indiana to Indianapolis. Later this year, EGTI will offer training programs at Riley Children's Health and Allison Transmission.

Upon graduation, students leave with a certificate, resume, practiced interview skills and a list of open positions in their hometown. More importantly, they leave connected to the EGTI team and other resources, including an alumni group, for ongoing support and information.

Every aspect of EGTI's programming is designed to promote not only employment skills but also increased self-esteem and confidence. Over 80% of EGTI graduates have secured employment in communities throughout Indiana.

Prospective students and their families are encouraged to visit EGTI by registering for one of the monthly general tours. In addition, Career Sampling Sessions, that offer a two-

day opportunity for potential students to observe and try various jobs, are offered several times throughout the year.

Learn more! Visit [EGTI@egti.org](mailto:EGTI@egti.org).

**ERSKINE**  
**GREEN**  
Training Institute



## Thanks to our Circles of Support members for their support of The Arc of Indiana Academy

The Arc of Indiana Advocacy Training Program offers a wide array of videos on topics impacting people with disabilities and their families. Individuals seeking a deeper understanding of these topics can complete comprehensive training modules and earn a certificate in that area of learning. Our goal is to empower families and people with disabilities with the information and tools they need to be strong advocates for their loved ones and themselves.

### Training Modules

- Case Manager/Provider Training
- Charting the LifeCourse
- Employment
- Guardianship & Alternatives to Guardianship
- Self-Advocacy & Self-Advocate Leadership Series
- Steps to Independence
- Team Meetings
- Voting

Visit The Arc of Indiana Academy at: [advocacy.thearcacademy.org](http://advocacy.thearcacademy.org)



**We Want to Hear Your Story!**

[ARCIND.ORG/SHARE-YOUR-STORY/](http://ARCIND.ORG/SHARE-YOUR-STORY/)

The Arc is collecting stories to learn how Medicaid is working (or not) for people with disabilities so we can advocate and educate for change. Visit [arcind.org/share-your-story](http://arcind.org/share-your-story) for information and share your story!

**35TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AND GOLF BALL BOUNCE 2024**

Hosted By **Eddie Gill**

PRESENTED BY **THE NATIONAL BANK OF INDIANAPOLIS**

Eagle Creek Golf Course | Purchase your chances today!  
 Alex Parker [aparker@arcind.org](mailto:aparker@arcind.org) | \$10 each, 13 for \$100  
[arcind.org/event/golf-2024/](http://arcind.org/event/golf-2024/) | [arcind.org/event/golf-ball-bounce](http://arcind.org/event/golf-ball-bounce)

Enter to Win **\$1,000** in the Golf Ball Bounce

June 27, 2024

# THE ARC ADVOCACY NETWORK 2023

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 3,812 INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES

The Arc Advocacy Network directly assisted 3,812 individuals & families seeking information on Medicaid, Waivers, Social Security, guardianship & alternatives, community resources, education & more.



### 68 EVENTS, 34 PRESENTATIONS

In 2023, we conducted 34 presentations reaching over 1,200 people. We exhibited at 68 events, reaching over 29,000 people.



### 12 FELLOWS, 180+ PARTICIPANTS

The Advocacy Leadership Network kicked off in a big way in 2023! We trained 12 Advocacy Leadership Fellows and created a network of more than 180 participants state-wide.



### 31 MENTORS, 35 MENTEES

At the end of 2023, we launched a new peer mentoring program! So far, we've matched 35 mentees with 31 mentors, and we're just getting started.



### 1,503 PEOPLE, 640 VR REFERRALS

In partnership with Voc Rehab, we presented at sheltered workshops across the state to provide resources about Competitive Integrated Employment to 1,503 people - resulting in 640 referrals!



### 12 WRITTEN & RECORDED STORIES

Continuing a grant with The Arc of the US, we collected 12 more stories about the barriers & benefits Medicaid has nationwide. Each story brings a new dimension & a unique perspective.



### 104 FAMILIES RECEIVED TRAINING

With a grant from the LIDS Foundation, 104 Hoosier families were able to receive access to TheArc@School, an online curriculum that teaches how to navigate the special education system.



143 W. Market St., Suite 200  
 Indianapolis, IN 46204  
 317-977-2375 800-382-9100



Make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across Indiana through your gift. Simply scan the QR code or visit [arcind.org/get-involved/donate](http://arcind.org/get-involved/donate) to give a gift online.

