
Governmental Affairs Update

The Arc of New Jersey continued to meet throughout the month of April with members of both the Senate and Assembly Budget Committees to advocate in support of increased funding to address the Direct Support Professional (DSP) workforce crisis. In our ongoing role as Chair of the Coalition for a DSP Living Wage, The Arc of New Jersey has spoken to legislative leaders, both Budget Chairs and other influential lawmakers about the ongoing struggles the disability community faces because of the low salaries paid to DSPs. During our conversations with Budget Committee members, we stress the critical role DSPs play in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families and the need to increase wages so the salary reflects the important work that they do. We are continuing our fight to raise wages by \$1.25 an hour for DSPs in the FY19 Budget. If you haven't done so already, make sure you are following the Coalition on [Twitter](#). You can also visit the Coalition's web site by clicking [here](#). During the month of May, The Arc of New Jersey will travel to the State House to hear Department of Human Services Commissioner Carole Jonhson testify before both Budget Committees.