

Governmental Affairs Update

Last month, Governor Phil Murphy named Executive Director Tom Baffuto to the Governor's Restart and Recovery Advisory Council. The Council is charged with advising state leadership on economic matters impacted by COVID-19. Tom is serving on the Social Services and Faith Subcommittee and virtual meetings are already underway. We are very pleased to see the Administration is taking into account people with I/DD, their families and the community providers who serve them as the state plans for life after the pandemic. It is an honor for The Arc to be named to this council and it will help to ensure the voice of those we represent is considered as the state makes critically-important decisions regarding New Jersey and its future.

Also during the month of May, The Arc of New Jersey continued to advocate with the Department of Human Services on issues impacting both individuals with I/DD and the community provider organizations who serve them during this difficult time. This includes funding for day program providers as well as the need for Personal Protective Equipment, among other things. Additionally, we continue to advocate with the Department of Education to ensure:

- students with I/DD have the technology they need to participate in virtual learning,
- compensatory services will be available should they be necessary once schools re-open,
- Extended School Year (ESY) for students with I/DD is available, in at least a virtual capacity, for those who depend upon the extra education that typically takes place over the summer months.