February 2026 Speak Up and Call for Action!

What is the calling campaign

The campaign is a collective push for members of The Arc New York community to place at least **5,000 calls** to legislators telling them what they need to do to support people with IDD in the NYS budget. Instructions and a call script can be found here.

Who should call?

YOU! And your family and friends across New York State

Who are we calling?

NYS Senators and Assemblymembers OR Staff

When are we calling?

Starting Monday February 9 or any day in February—including weekends—until we reach **5,000 calls!**

Why are we calling?

The Executive Budget only includes a 1.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) and **we need the full 2.7%** just to match inflation for the year, and we need support for our **Careforce Affordability** package!

What number do I call?

You can find your representative's phone numbers on the Senate and Assembly websites below. If you would like to change the script accordingly and call Governor Hochul, her number is 518-474-8390.

FIND YOUR NYS ASSEMBLYMEMBER

FIND YOUR NYS SENATOR

How should I let you know to count my calls?

Complete this short response **short response form** to let us know who you called so we can track our shared success!

A family-based organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Additional Information:

You can call any time, day, night and weekends to leave a message if you don't want to speak directly with a staff member. Emailing a personal message is great too. Once you look up your representative, you will find options to send a message directly to their email address or use the online form.

A sample script has been provided below. Please feel free to change it. It's important for you to feel comfortable, so we recommend writing out your script in its entirety and practicing a few times before you call.

We have created some additional resources with talking points to help support your call. You can ask for your legislator's email address so you can follow up and forward the materials to their office. The script focuses on the 2.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase, but there is nothing holding you back from conveying the additional requests found in the budget priorities and legislative action documents below. Also consider calling on multiple days to cover each topic. Here are the links:

- **The Arc New York Budget Priorities**

- **FY2027 Legislative Action**

- **About The Arc New York Info Sheet**

Script

Hello <insert name of person who responds>, my name is_____, and I am a _____ <give example of who you are and share more specific details concisely: parent\staff member\self-advocate\ family member\supporter\ board member of)...and a constituent of <insert legislator name>.

Optional: ...and a part of the _____ Chapter of The Arc New York.

I am asking you to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the workforce that supports them through nonprofit providers.

The Governor included a 1.7% Targeted Inflationary Increase (TII) for human services providers in her executive budget proposal. However, that investment would not even fully adjust for inflation over the past year. It is essential that the legislature include the full 2.7% inflationary increase to appropriately correct rates for inflation, which is the absolute minimum necessary to cover the increased cost of food, benefits, transportation, utilities, medical supplies and more. That is only a 1% increase for the legislature to add above the governor's proposal!

Additionally, Care Coordination Organizations should be eligible to receive the 2.7% increase to ensure effective planning and cohesive coordination of services and support.

As your constituent, I am asking you to speak up to your leadership and make this a top three priority for inclusion in your one-house budget bills and change the budget!

Thank you and appreciate your support for this very important issue.