

The Arc Maryland is the largest statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to the rights and quality of life of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. We do this through public policy, advocacy, public awareness, and training and membership support.

We are a membership-based organization of ten local chapters and one state chapter, serving people throughout the state of Maryland. Our network of local chapters provides a wide range of human services and other supports to people with I/DD and their family members, including individual and public policy advocacy, residential, educational and vocational services, employment, family supports and early intervention. These services and supports promote people with I/DD to achieve full inclusion in their communities.

The Arc Maryland is part of a national network through The Arc US of more than 650 state and local chapters nationwide. The Arc is on the front lines to ensure that people with I/DD and their families have the support and services they need to be fully engaged in their communities.

Join our fight.

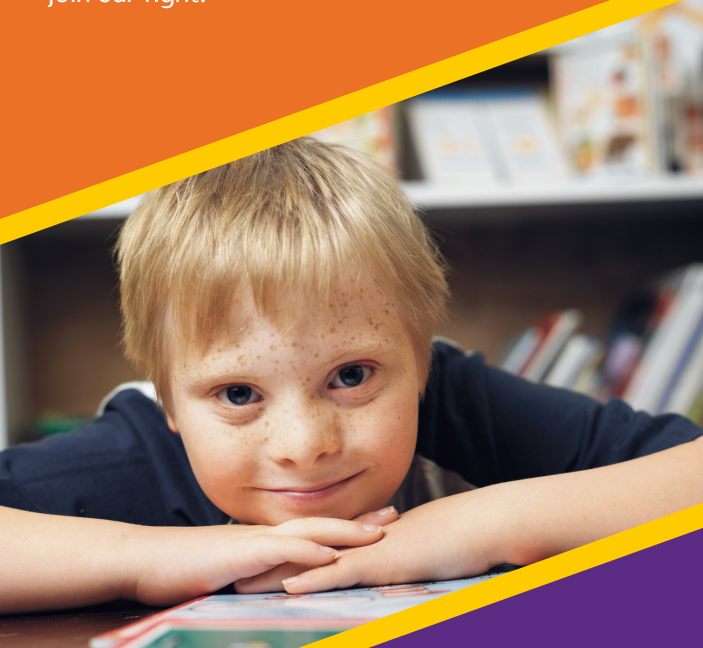
*Our mission is to create a world where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities have and enjoy equal rights and opportunities.*



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# 2019 Public Policy Platform



[www.thearcmd.org](http://www.thearcmd.org)



# The Arc Maryland's Public Policy Priorities



## Funding for Community Programs

Protect current funding and secure additional funds to ensure a stable, quality system of Community Programs funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) that supports all individuals, regardless of age and severity of disability. Supports shall be provided to assist individuals to live fulfilling lives in their communities. Ensure funds to provide an annual increase for DDA community programs and direct support professionals. This is important to reverse the declining wage factor in the provider rate which contributes to the declining availability of Direct Support Professionals in Maryland.

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## Waiting Lists

Obtain accurate numbers of people on the DDA Waiting List and advocate for additional waiver slots and services for people in need of both DDA and Autism Waiver services. Funding was included in the Education budget in 2017 and 18 to increase Autism Waiver slots to 1200, but to date, the waiting list for services exceeds 5,000 children.



## Education & Children's Services

Ensure students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) have access to inclusive, quality, free and appropriate public education (preschool, primary, secondary and post-secondary education) and receive appropriate accommodations to participate in all aspects of education life. Ensure children with I/DD are included in neighborhood child care, before and after school programs, and camps regardless of the nature or level of their disability.

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## Affordable Housing

Increase affordable and accessible housing so people with I/DD can live in the community. Accessible housing includes financial and physical access, as well as access to transportation for jobs and social opportunities.

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## Civil Rights

Close the remaining state institutions and oppose the expansion of State Residential Centers (SRCs) and new admissions including respite care.



## Employment

Increase opportunities for competitive, integrated employment at fair wages for people with I/DD. Ensure funding is sufficient to provide quality community supports with an "employment first" focus.

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## Transitioning Youth

Ensure families are getting involved in the process and have access to reliable information on the transition process. Fully fund all Transitioning Youth (TY) who exit the school system at age 21 years so they have the supports they need to participate in their community, jobs, and life-long learning and/or higher education to ensure meaningful adult life and opportunities.

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## Law Enforcement & Justice

Support police and other first responder, and school resource officer (SRO) training efforts that reduce stigma, increase safety, and inspire relationships of acceptance and support for all Marylanders.