

Join the *Movement!*

This year and every year, The Arc of Massachusetts enhances the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, including autism, and assists their families.

More than 200,000 individuals with disabilities live in Massachusetts. Giving them and their families greater access to community-based lifespan supports and services including early intervention, family support, employment and residential programs, and social-recreational activities is crucial. The Arc of Massachusetts fights to make these opportunities available.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ARC'S WORK.

Make a gift. The Annual Fund supports our advocacy and outreach on Beacon Hill and on Capitol Hill, as well as programs such as Operation House Call and Widening the Circle. Make a gift anytime at arcmass.org/donate. You also can make a tribute gift and honor a friend or loved one with a contribution.

Sponsor the annual gala. Sponsorship packages start at \$1,000, providing opportunities for corporations, individuals, and agencies to get involved at a range of giving levels.

Become an agency sponsor. If you represent a human service agency serving people with I/DD, join the Agency Sponsorship Program. You will be directly participating in and supporting ongoing work to secure funding and establish effective disability policies and receive great benefits.

Contact your elected officials. Make your voice heard on Capitol Hill and Beacon Hill. Share your stories with your legislators. Help us provide the names and faces that legislators need to understand the pressing need for good policies and funding for services.




The Arc of Massachusetts

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learn more or make a gift.



Achieve with us.™

Enhancing the lives of people
with intellectual and developmental disabilities,
including autism, and their families.
We fulfill this through advocacy
for community supports and
services that foster social
inclusion, self-determination,
and equity across all aspects
of society.





Welcome to The Arc of Massachusetts

Established 65 years ago, The Arc of Massachusetts enhances the lives of the more than 200,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in our Commonwealth and their families. With our 17 chapters across Massachusetts, we advocate for supports and community-based services such as family support, employment, recreation, and residential.

Families banded together in the 1950s to change policies and practices. In the 1960s, special education and de-institutionalization took center stage. In the 1970s, 'normalization' became the watchword for services and The Arc advocated for a life in the community. The Arc led the push for funding for adult supports (Turning 22) in the 1980s. In 2000, a ruling was made on the Boulet law suit, which The Arc brought against the Department of Mental Retardation. As a result, the 2,437 individuals who were in institutions because their families lacked

the supports necessary to care for them at home were given the opportunity to live in their own communities and receive the services they needed. In 2013-2014, The Arc played a key role in passage of four key pieces of legislation: Real Lives, the Autism Omnibus bill, the National Background Check, and a data study of autism.

Today, The Arc remains at the forefront of the fight for better lives for people with I/DD and autism. The Arc works to ensure the rights of people with disabilities, obtain funding for support services, and seek the passage of good policies and laws, such as Nicky's Law, which would create a registry for care providers substantiated of abuse against individuals with I/DD.

In the coming year, The Arc of Massachusetts will be working to address the workforce shortage crisis among Direct Support Professionals (DSPs); refiling our priority legislation, Nicky's Law; and advocating for increasing needs in Family Support funding as part of the FY 2020 budget. We will be hosting our biennial Transition Conference in November 2019; providing valuable resources to help families and self-advocates along their life journeys; and continuing the fight on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill to ensure that individuals with I/DD, including autism, have the equal rights they deserve.

OUR PROGRAMS:

CHANGING THE LIVES OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Arc's programs and projects promote systemic change to enable access and equity across all aspects of society. For example, Operation House call addresses bias in health care, while Widening the Circle advances social inclusion.



EMPOWERMENT

The Arc of Massachusetts plays a leadership role in advocating on both the state and federal levels to obtain services and supports for people of all ages with autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome and other intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). This includes ensuring that elected leaders and public officials understand the needs of our constituents, advancing progressive regulations or policies, and working with the judicial system if needed. We encourage families and individuals to advocate for their personal goals.



EDUCATION AND TRANSITION TRAINING

The Arc provides a range of webinars and outreach sessions to assist families in their caregiving role and to educate them about resources that are available. We provide self-advocates, parents, educators, and other professionals the tools they need to ensure positive transitions from school to adulthood, so they can be fully included in the community with access to housing, employment, and recreation. Our work with the Massachusetts Alliance for 21st Century Policy, including the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council, involves both education and empowerment.



OPERATION HOUSE CALL

Operation House Call (OHC) teaches young medical professionals essential skills to enhance the health care of persons with I/DD. Families, parents, and individual self-advocates serve as educators in a health care field that seldom focuses on more than making a diagnosis. It is a rare and important training opportunity for students at Boston University School of Medicine, Tufts Medical School, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Simmons College School of Health Sciences, and Yale University School of Nursing. Through OHC, students begin to build confidence and interest in working with individuals with I/DD and their families.



SUPPORTBROKERS

SUPPORTbrokers assists persons with disabilities achieve their vision. We accomplish this through planning, education, and advocacy. Consumers or families hire a support broker to help them find appropriate services and supports to thrive in their community. Brokers can help consumers find transportation, a place to live, someone to help them with daily living skills, a job counselor, and other linkages. They also can facilitate and create a person-centered plan and help consumers apply for Social Security or health insurance, among other benefits.



WIDENING THE CIRCLE

Widening The Circle explores the benefits of relationships between people with and without disabilities and provides information on engaging in and sustaining those relationships. Building friendships can be especially challenging to people who have disabilities, whose relationships are often limited to family, paid staff, and others with disabilities. All people benefit from a diversity of relationships.