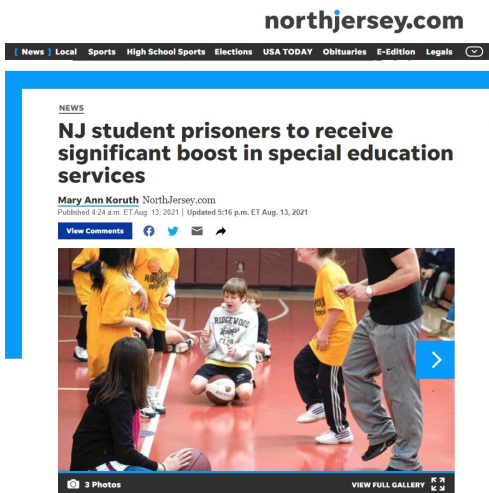




## Settlement Will Improve Special Education Services in NJ State Prisons



For the past four years, The Arc of New Jersey worked with Disability Rights Advocates from New York and the ACLU-NJ to file suit against the New Jersey Departments of Corrections and Education regarding special education services for individuals with disabilities in prison. According to a settlement of the suit preliminarily approved by the federal District Court for the District of New Jersey last month, the NJDOC will drastically improve the provision of special education services for people in its prisons. The agreement will overhaul special education services in New Jersey state prisons by mandating the implementation of newly created policies across the NJDOC and providing comprehensive monitoring by the NJDOE. The NJDOC is adopting new policies that are designed to, among other things: identify students who are eligible for special education; develop and implement Individualized Education Plans and Section 504 Plans according to the individual needs of

each student; provide individualized transition services to eligible students; provide at least four hours of instruction per day in a regular classroom setting, except in limited circumstances; etc. For additional details, [click here](#) for the ACLU-NJ press release regarding the settlement. You can also click the image to the left to read recent reporting by NorthJersey.com on this important issue. The Arc of New Jersey is very pleased and thankful for this outcome and grateful for the work of our partner organizations on this effort. If you believe that you or someone you know is entitled to compensation as a member of this class action, [click here for additional information](#) about how to proceed.

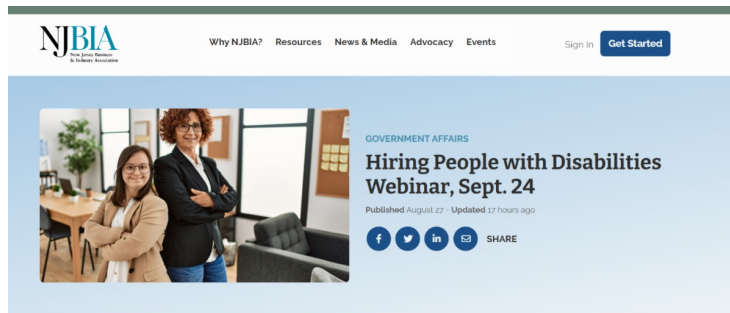
## Governor Signs Executive Order Mandating Vaccination or Testing Requirement



On August 6, Governor Murphy signed Executive Order 252 which requires that all workers in certain state and private health care facilities and high-risk congregate settings be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by September 7, 2021 or be subject to COVID-19 testing at minimum one to two times per week. This Executive Order will apply to Direct Support Professionals working in DDD licensed residential settings and day programs. To read more of the Governor's announcement on [Executive Order 252, click here](#).

The Arc of New Jersey's Executive Director Tom Baffuto will moderate a panel discussion hosted by the New Jersey Business and Industry Association that focuses on employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The webinar, entitled "Hiring People with Disabilities," will take place on Friday, September 24, at 2 pm and panelists will include Best Buddies International State

Director Matthew Fernandes and state Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services program specialists Cheryl Casciano, Marc Schweitzer, and Jennifer Veneziani. Wesley Anderson, The Arc of New Jersey's Director of Training & Consultation, will also present during the webinar. Increasing employment opportunities for people with IDD remains a top priority for The Arc of New Jersey and we are excited to participate in this upcoming event. To learn more and to register for the [9/24 webinar, click here](#).



## Registration Open for Fall Self-Advocacy Conference

Each year, the New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network work together to host the annual [Fall Conference](#). The event is an opportunity for Self-Advocates and Allies to network, learn about current advocacy issues, and attend professional development workshops.

This year, we will host the Fall Conference *virtually!* The event will take place on Saturday, October 9, at 9 am. [Click here to register](#). You must register by Friday, October 1, to attend the Fall Conference. Registration is free with options to donate. The event will include workshops, an exhibitor hall and remarks from stakeholders.



## Act Now: Tell Congress to Pass the Better Care Better Jobs Act, a Historic Investment in Disability Services

**CLICK HERE  
to Take Action!**

For years, the service system that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families rely on, Medicaid, has needed an update. People are stuck on waiting lists, the direct care workforce is underpaid, and too often, unpaid family caregivers are filling in the gaps in service. The COVID-19 pandemic has magnified these problems and exposed the cracks and gaps in the care infrastructure when it comes to supporting people with disabilities. Now, following the Administration's proposals, Congress has introduced the Better Care Better Jobs Act. This bill includes a

long-overdue investment in the disability service system as part of a COVID-19 economic recovery to support care for Medicaid recipients and create more and better jobs for the workforce that provides that care. We must ask Members of Congress to enact legislation that lives up to this plan and do more for people with disabilities, their families, and the direct care workforce. [Click here to take action](#)

## News You Can Use!

- The New Jersey Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics and St. Joseph's Health is sponsoring three focus groups (for advocates and parents who speak English and Spanish) to learn why children and adults with disabilities have difficulties accessing dental services in New Jersey. For more information,

including how to participate in one of the focus groups, [click here](#).

- Last month, The Arc of New Jersey distributed a communication to help individuals with IDD who have received Unemployment Insurance (UI) during the pandemic. Some of the Unemployment Insurance policies passed by Congress resulted in unintended problems for certain individuals with IDD who received a high amount of UI -- often an additional \$600 per week -- which resulted in the termination of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid benefits. For more information on this issue, [click here](#).
- The Arc of New Jersey congratulates Megan MacMullin, Esq., Chief Executive Officer at SCARC Guardianship Services, who will receive a 2021 Ann Klein Advocate Award at the Community Health Law Project's Award Reception on September 22, in West Orange. More information about the awards and the upcoming event can be found [here](#).



## Upcoming Virtual Events!

Click below to register for one of our many upcoming virtual events/webinars. And be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other future events.



### Zoom with Us:

- September 28 at 6 pm: [Accessing DDD Services](#) (This event was rescheduled from its original 8/24 date)

### Webinar:

- September 14 at 1 pm: [Impact of COVID pandemic on Social Security benefits for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities](#)
- September 16 at 2 pm: ["What Do I Need to Know..." If I have to call 911?](#)

### Stay Healthy at Home - a webinar series hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project - every Tuesday at 2 PM on GoToWebinar

The webinar series covers a variety of topics related to advocacy, life skills, employment, and civic engagement. Sessions are designed to be accessible to self-advocates, parents, and support staff. Live viewers can share comments, ask questions, and access resources. *SUMMER HITS! We'll be playing replays of some of our favorite past webinars all of July and August. Don't worry, we'll be back in the fall with a new and improved webinar series with brand-new topics and new accessibility features!*

- September 7: [REPLAY - Overview of Supported Employment](#)
- September 14: [Communication Frustrations: Improving Social Skills & Boundaries](#)
- September 21: [REPLAY: How May I Assist You? Benefits of Assistive Technology](#)
- September 28: [REPLAY: Best Course of Action: Action Alerts & Advocacy Campaigns](#)

### Healthy Lifestyles Project LIVE! - every Wednesday at 11 AM on Zoom

This interactive series of events is hosted by the NJ Self-Advocacy Project and focuses on activities to promote health and wellness education for students and adults with I/DD. Live viewers will be able to share comments, ask questions, and participate in activities led by professionals *in real time*.

- September 1: [Food for Thought: Fudgy Black Bean Brownies](#)
- September 8: [SproutFlix: Movie Screening & Discussion](#)
- September 15: [The Miracle Project: Acting and Improv Activities](#)
- September 22: [Canines For Kids: Service Dog Presentation](#)
- September 29: [Art Therapy Session](#)

We also have Fitness Fridays at 1 PM: [Click here to register](#).

## A Message from The Arc of New Jersey

# Thank You

Thank you to all our generous donors who, over the past number of months, have made donations to support us. These critical funds will help us in our efforts to assist individuals with I/DD and their families, as well as our local county chapters, through the COVID19 crisis. To put your donation to work for

individuals with I/DD and their families, [click here](#). If you have questions or need assistance, our staff is here to help. [Click here](#) to access information about our Programs.

## Use Your Amazon App to Support The Arc of New Jersey

If you are an AmazonSmile customer, you can now support The Arc of New Jersey, Inc. in the Amazon shopping app on your Android device! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations.

1. If you have the latest version of the Amazon Shopping App, open the App on your Android device.
2. View Settings and select AmazonSmile.
3. Follow the in-App instructions to complete the process.

If you do not have the latest version of the Amazon shopping App, update your App. Click [here](#) for instructions.



## Need help or more information? Want to become active in our advocacy network?

- **Visit our website** to access lots of great information that can help you navigate service systems, find resources and keep you informed as to the important issues facing children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.
- **Join our advocacy network** to add your voice to the thousands who are working hard to promote and protect the quality of life of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Visit our website

Join an Advocacy Network

DONATE NOW!

STAY CONNECTED



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