



## The Arc Advocates on Federal Public Policy, State Budget Funding for People with I/DD

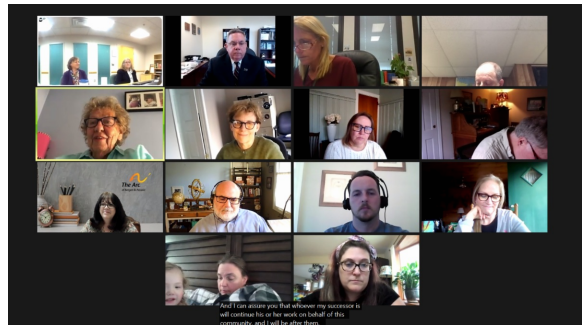


Throughout the month of April, The Arc of New Jersey met virtually with state lawmakers and representatives from our federal legislative offices on a variety of issues impacting people with I/DD and their families. As part of the 2021 Disability Policy Seminar, we met with the offices of Congressmen Norcross, Malinowski, Kim and Pallone and the offices of US Senators Menendez and Booker. During these virtual sit-downs, we spoke about the need to expand and enhance Home and Community Based Services, the need to raise

the age limit for eligibility to open ABLE Accounts, fixes that would improve Social Security benefits as well as special education concerns like the need to fully fund the IDEA. During these meetings we were joined by First Vice President and family member Kevin Sturges, Self-Advocate Barbara Coppens, The Arc of Cape May's Chief Executive Officer Leslie Long and members of the NJ Council on Developmental Disabilities. To continue reading, [click here](#). **Pictured above: Top row: Leslie Long, Sharon Levine, Tom Baffuto. Second Row: Barbara Coppens, Kevin Sturges, Bianca Markovski. Bottom Row: Alfred Mason)**

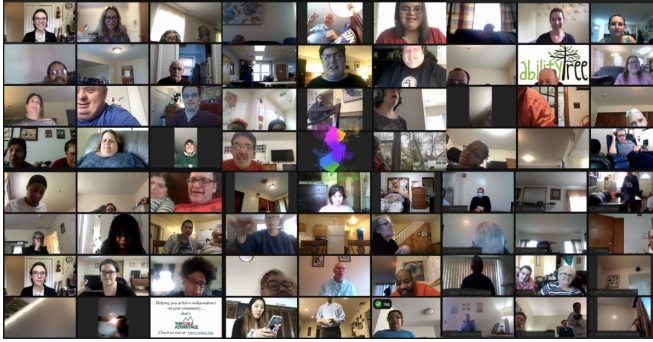
## Virtual Vigil Honors Victims/Survivors with I/DD

In recognition of people with disabilities who are members of the victim/survivor community, and to coincide with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, The Arc of New Jersey held a virtual vigil on April 21 that included distinguished speakers and advocates, an award presentation to New Jersey's State Senate Majority Leader, and a candlelight ceremony. Every April since 1981, the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) in the US Department of Justice has designated a week in April to renew the commitment to serving all victims of crime, and The Arc of New Jersey wanted to ensure that those with intellectual and developmental disabilities are not overlooked during this important time. To continue reading, [click here](#).



## Spring Luncheon Attracts Approx 200 Attendees

The New Jersey Self-Advocacy Project and the New Jersey Statewide Self-Advocacy Network worked together to host their 15th annual [Spring Into Action Awards Luncheon](#) on Saturday, April 17. The virtual event gave Self-Advocates the



opportunity to connect and to recognize heroes and exemplary members of the community. The event included remarks from distinguished guests, including a special video message from Senate President Sweeney, Council updates and breakout rooms during lunch before concluding with a dance class and closing remarks. For more information, [click here](#).

## Caregiver Task Force Seeks Input Via Survey

The NJ Caregiver Task Force was created in 2018 under Chapter 166 of the Public Laws of 2018 with the purpose of determining the availability of caregiver support services in the State, and providing recommendations for the improvement and expansion of such services. Members of the Task Force represent unpaid caregivers who provide care to individuals with a wide range of needs including individuals with physical disabilities, individuals with chronic health conditions, older adults, individuals with mental illness, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and individuals with cognitive or behavioral health challenges. The act of caregiving can take a serious emotional and physical toll on caregivers and it is the goal of the Taskforce to hear from caregivers directly so as to inform recommendations which will be included in a report to the Governor and Legislature. The Taskforce has held listening sessions to receive testimony from caregivers on their experiences and is now conducting a survey of caregivers in the state to develop an aggregate summary of caregiver characteristics and gain better understanding of their needs. The survey will close June 30. [Click here to take the survey in English](#), and [here to take the survey in Spanish](#). The survey will be available in Gujarati, Korean and Simple Chinese by May 10th. Please reach out with any specific questions you may have. The Task Force's direct email is [doas.caregivertaskforce@dhs.nj.gov](mailto:doas.caregivertaskforce@dhs.nj.gov) and the website is [www.nj.gov/humanservices/doas/home/caregivertaskforce/](http://www.nj.gov/humanservices/doas/home/caregivertaskforce/).



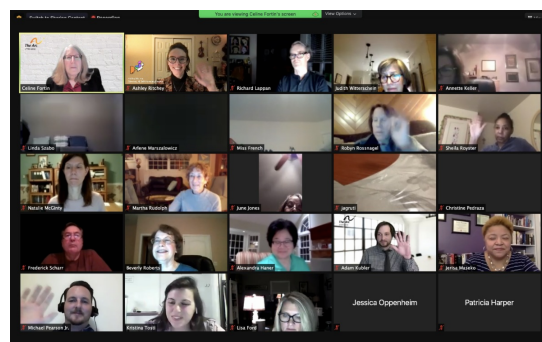
## Lisa Conley Named CEO at The Arc Gloucester

The Arc of New Jersey would like to congratulate Lisa Conley on being named Chief Executive Officer at The Arc of Gloucester County. Lisa began her career with The Arc Gloucester in 1991 as Confidential Secretary. Throughout her 30 years with The Arc Gloucester, she has held various positions in Administration and Leadership, including Executive Secretary, Director of Public Affairs, Assistant Executive Director of Family Supports and Public Affairs and Interim CEO. She holds both a B.A. and a Certification in Public Relations from Rowan University. The Arc of New Jersey wishes Lisa all the best as she takes on this new role. To reach out to Lisa with your well wishes or questions, email: [LConley@thearcgloucester.org](mailto:LConley@thearcgloucester.org). You can also learn more by [clicking here](#).



## Directors Outline How The Arc of NJ Can Help

Program Directors from The Arc of New Jersey presented: "Resources for Understanding and Navigating New Jersey's Service Systems" as part of April's Parent Empowerment Conference hosted by Hinkle Prior & Fischer Attorneys at Law. The presentation provided an overview of the ways in which The Arc of NJ helps individuals and families, available resources we offer and how to navigate the varied state systems.



# Registration Opens for Medical Care Conference

You can now register for The Arc of New Jersey's 31st Conference on Medical Care for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities which will take place virtually on **Thursday, June 10th and Friday, June 11th**. The conference will run from 9 am to 12 pm on both dates. The Conference is for everyone who is concerned about providing quality health care to individuals with I/DD. This includes health and mental health professionals, administrative and direct care staff, family members, social workers HMO representatives and employees of the New Jersey Departments of Human Services, Children and Families, and Health. [Click here](#) for more information and to purchase tickets for this event. [Click here](#) to view the conference brochure.



**Save the Dates!**

The Arc of New Jersey's  
31st Annual Conference on Medical and Dental Care  
For Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

**This will be a virtual conference**  
Thursday, June 10th from 9am - 12pm  
Friday, June 11th from 9am - 12pm

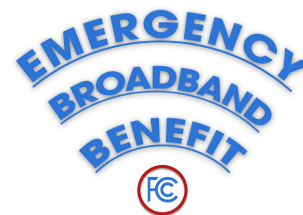
Exhibitor and Contributor Opportunities Available

Please contact Jennifer Lynch at [conference@arcnj.org](mailto:conference@arcnj.org) for more information

## Resource Alert: Emergency Broadband Benefit

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is a temporary FCC program to help households struggling to afford internet service during the pandemic. As of May 12, 2021, eligible households will be able to enroll in the program to receive a monthly discount off the cost of broadband service from an approved provider. Households can apply in three ways:

1. Contact your preferred [participating broadband provider](#) directly to learn about their application process.
2. Go to [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org) to apply online and to find participating providers near you.
3. Call 833-511-0311 for a mail-in application, and return it along with proof of eligibility to: Emergency Broadband Support Center P.O. Box 7081 London, KY 40742



## Upcoming Virtual Events!

We've added additional webinars to help individuals with I/DD and their families during this difficult time. Register today and be sure to check out our [calendar](#) for other upcoming events.



### Webinars:

- May 12 at 1 pm: [Special Education in New Jersey Charter Schools](#)
- May 20 at 2 pm: [Expungement Law: Changes to the Law in NJ that Improve Access to Expungement](#)
- May 26 at 1 pm: [Creating Supportive Behavioral Intervention Plans](#)

### Virtual College Tours:

- May 6 at 6 pm: [The Garden State Pathways \(GSP\) Program at Camden County College](#)

### Zoom with Us:

- May 20 at 6 pm: [What's in Your IEP and How You Plan for Transition?](#)

### 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.

- May 4: [How to Welcome More Plants into Your Diet](#)

- May 11: [Stand By Me: An Overview of Supported Decision Making and Guardianship Alternatives](#)
- May 18: [I/DD and Mental Illness: What to Look For and How to Get Help](#)
- May 25: [REPLAY: Can I Help You? Mental Health First Aid](#)

**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*.

- May 5: [Food for Thought: Jackfruit Tacos](#)
- May 12: [Center Stage: Virtual Talent Show](#)
- May 19: [Intro to the Wild Outdoors: Virtual!](#)
- May 26: [Look Who's Dancing: Inclusive Dance Class](#)

**\*NEW\*** 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 few weeks, 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!

