

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute



For the families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



Protect the Lifeline



*DON'T CUT OUR
LIFELINE*

2017 will be a critical year for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. With Congress re-convened and a new administration taking office in a few days, it is imperative that The Arc and all our constituents voice our concerns and educate decision-makers on the local, state and national levels about the needs and issues of people with I/DD, and their families.

In particular, education about the federal programs that provide the key to community living and inclusion for people with I/DD across the nation - the "Lifeline" programs - is of critical importance. Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, Medicare and civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are lifelines for people with I/DD and their families, providing benefits, supports, and civil rights protections that help make community living possible.

Now more than ever, we must join together as a collective movement to ensure that our lifeline programs and civil rights are protected. In the coming months, we will be calling on you as advocates to take action by reaching out to the President and Congress to educate them on the importance of these lifelines and to urge them to preserve - not cut - these essential programs and civil rights laws.

The Arc on the local, state and national levels is committed to working tirelessly to preserve the lifeline programs but we cannot do it without your help. When you receive an action alert please respond. Every call, every email and every letter counts.

You can also help by telling your story. How would a repeal of the ACA affect you or a loved

one? How does Medicaid and Social Security support you or your family member? In the months ahead, we will be asking individuals and families to share their stories which will put the human face on the issue.

You can see more information about how the Lifeline programs support people with I/DD and why it is vital to protect them by visiting our [website](#). Check back often, as we'll be adding new fact sheets and tools throughout the year.

You can also stay informed by signing up for The Arc's [Disability Advocacy Network](#).

If you have any questions, you can always reach out to us at fap@arcnj.org or 732.246.2526. Thank you!

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