



Tennessee

Achieve with us.

Annual Report 2021 - 2022



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Executive Summary

70 years ago, in cities and towns around the United States, families of young children with intellectual/developmental disabilities (IDD) started a “movement” that changed forever how our country treats people with developmental challenges. When the movement began, babies with developmental disabilities were often institutionalized shortly after birth. In the 1950s a baby with Down syndrome, for example, had a life expectancy of around 10 years. Advances in medical treatment have made a significant difference and today, the life expectancy of people with IDD is typical of the general population.



In addition to medical advances, the “movement” started by those families decades ago contributed to increased life expectancy because children with disabilities could live with their own families, go to school and work and play in their own communities. The Arc started with the efforts of those families and continues today as the largest national organization advocating for people with IDD. From the beginning, the founders of The Arc knew the importance of active engagement in the halls of Congress and the Capitols of every state.

Public policy decisions affect the lives of people with IDD from birth to death. Without publicly funded services, very few people with IDD (or their families) could afford a lifetime of support. With limited access to quality health care and fewer financial resources, people with IDD are more likely to live with parents into adulthood and have limited social supports and friendships.

As people with IDD age, they want the same things as other people: maintenance of physical and mental health to live as independently as possible, friendships, and the opportunity to contribute to society.

The next generation of people with IDD and their families who have grown up with expectations of full inclusion in schools expects more options in the community, more consumer-direction of services, and more support for aging in one’s own home. Technological advances as well as social expectations mean that we must develop new models for lifelong support.

We are excited by the investment in service and supports for people with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities that were included in the Tennessee state budget this legislative session including: \$21,837,500 and 74 Positions to extend TEIS services up to the age of 4; \$12,305,500 and 25 positions to reflect the record growth in the TEIS program; \$25,000,000 to implement the Medicaid Alternative Pathways (MAPS) program; \$24,435,000 to continue the state’s commitment to raising wages for our critical direct support workers from \$12.50 an hour to \$13.75; and \$500,000 for Tennessee Believes to expand the inclusive higher education grant program to more colleges and universities across the state.

The Arc of Tennessee is grateful for the opportunity to work with the TN General Assembly, state agencies, other advocacy organizations, service providers, thousands of volunteers and families across the state to meet todays and tomorrow’s challenges. Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heidi Haines".

Heidi Haines
Executive Director

Our Mission

The Arc Tennessee empowers people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families to actively participate in the community throughout their lifetime.

The Arc Tennessee is a nonprofit organization that enhances the lives of people with disabilities through its services and programs. We have been creating opportunities and advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families since 1952.

We are driven by the following values: Integrity, Justice, Courage, Respect.

We are a chapter and membership organization composed of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, friends, and professionals who assist them in reaching their goals.

Our organization values diversity and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, Limited English Proficiency, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender or level of disability.

Our Strategic Plan

The Arc Tennessee is driven by its strategic plan that focuses on these goals:

1. The Arc Tennessee is recognized and respected as the leading advocacy organization for people with I/DD and their families.
2. The Arc Tennessee shapes public policy, influences systems and strengthens collaborations to positively impact people with I/DD and their families across their lifespan.
3. The Arc Tennessee identifies, promotes and implements best practices for supporting people with I/DD and their families to lead meaningful lives in their communities.
4. The Arc Tennessee is a culturally responsive organization.
5. The Arc Tennessee is a financially stable organization.

To view our 2019 – 2022 Strategic Plan, please email info@thearctn.org.

Our Board of Directors

The Arc Tennessee's Board of Directors is a wonderfully supportive and diverse group of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their family members, community members, and local chapter representatives. Their commitment to the organization is made clear by their generous donation of:

- Time - volunteering collectively over 500 hours this year
- Talents and expertise – guidance and leadership
- Treasures - giving and in-kind donations

2021-2022 Board Members

Robyn Lampley, President

Nikki Klumb, Treasurer

Rick Guiden, Secretary

Linda Brown, Immediate Past President

Darlene Bearden

Cheryl Blake-Coleman

Glenda Bond

Sharon Bottorff

Shontie Brown

Maleesa Fleenor

Teresa Grimmett

Virginia Micelli

Sheila Moore

Doria Panvini

Christina Pearce

Jan Ryan

Jen Vogus

Dr. Sharon Webb

The Arc Tennessee Team

Heidi Haines, Executive Director

Dara Bacon, Director of Communication & Public Awareness

Heather Henderson, Director of Advocacy

Ashley Coulter, Director of Program Administration

Frank Meeuwis, Director of Quality Improvement and Systems Change

Jennifer Aprea, Director of Family Engagement in Special Education

Gavin Dillinger, Executive Administrative Assistant

Ingrid Moody, Office Manager

Scott Finney, Receptionist and Community Liaison

Angela Braach, Membership and Local Chapter Coordinator

Dylan Brown, Peer Support Coordinator
 Penny Johnson, Center for Decision-Making Support Program Coordinator
 Tracey Cunningham, Advocate
 Theresa Smisor, Advocate
 Lamont Tucker, Advocate
 Caitlynd Freeze, Advocate
 Billy Worsham, Community Resource Specialist
 Hal Baker, Community Resource Specialist II
 Susan Bryant, Community Resource Specialist II
 Kayla Jefferies, Family Engagement Communications Specialist
 Katrina VanBuren, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Kathleen Basham, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Molly Anderson, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Kendra Jones, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Annette Graves, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Jeremy Connors, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Susan Carr, Regional Family Engagement Specialist
 Emily Whitson, Exceptional Education Mentor

With a majority of the team hired at the start of the pandemic, 2022 marked the first time the entire Family Engagement was able to meet in person.



Membership and Local Chapters

This year The Arc Tennessee has added 228 new members, for a total of 1,875 members. There are 15 local chapters across the state of Tennessee. Each affiliated local chapter is its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and serve their communities through a variety of direct services. Some chapters serve multiple counties, while others are county specific. As the state chapter, we provide local chapters with technical assistance, training, and membership

processing. Our 15 local chapters are an important part to achieving our overall mission and we take great pride in seeing our local chapters succeed. This year The Arc Tennessee migrated its membership data to a new user-friendly database and is currently developing new systems for processing membership. Though our numbers have decreased, it is primarily due to data that has been updated so duplicates, deceased, and inactive members have been removed.

In an effort to fully utilize the database features and build relations between our state chapter and local chapters, a monthly newsletter was launched in February called *Membership Matters*. In May, *All Things Membership*, a monthly virtual lunch & learn for local chapters will begin. These monthly meetings provide a chance for all chapters to come together to collaborate, share what's working, request support with overcoming challenges, and enroll in free resources that can increase impact. Since January, The Arc Tennessee's Membership Committee has been an intricate part in developing a membership pilot with The Arc Williamson County and The Arc Davidson County and Greater Nashville that will launch May 2022. Over the next 3-6 months, data will be collected and reviewed to develop sustainable systems of processing membership with flexible options to meet distinctive chapter needs. With the introduction of Every Action's targeted email, online forms, and customer relationship management, The Arc Tennessee has laid a strong foundation for increasing retention of current members and extending our reach to new members/communities. Momentum is increasing, thanks in large part to the integration of the website and database expanding The Arc Tennessee's capabilities to accommodate climbing numbers while developing and maintaining strong relationships with our members. We anticipate an impactful year of membership growth and retention in 2022-2023!

LOCAL CHAPTERS	NEW MEMBERS ADDED	NUMBER OF RENEWALS	TOTAL MEMBERSHIP
15	228	1,647	1,875

Communication

Throughout the last 10 months, The Arc Tennessee has been reaping the rewards of our 2020/2021 technology upgrade! With the launch of three fully accessible websites and a comprehensive database (www.thearctn.org, www.tndecisionmakingsupport.org, www.tnmegaconference.org), event sponsorships, fundraising campaign donations, and social media reach has increased.

While staff continues to invest in the orientation and optimization of our new database, The Arc Tennessee websites have had over 49,555 pages viewed with 16,931 unique viewers. These analytics confirm that more people are finding us online and viewing multiple pages per site visit. The Arc Tennessee's social media following has also grown substantially. Though the average number of postings varied slightly, number of followers/likes has increased across all social media platforms. This is a great indication the content being posted is needed, helpful, relevant and desired among those we serve.

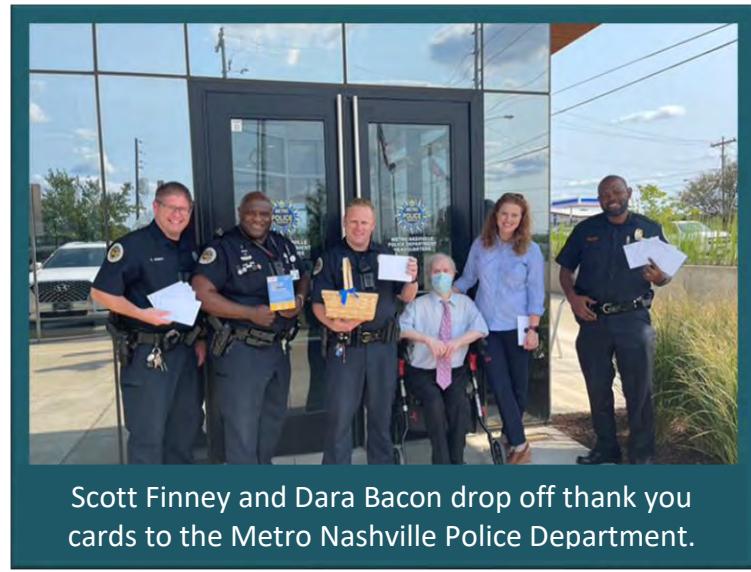
The Arc Tennessee also implemented its most successful public awareness campaign with the Sept. 11th Remembrance Project! This one-time project empowered individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to prove that neurodiverse populations can serve their communities in times of need, despite being high-risk during the ongoing pandemic. Individuals with disabilities coordinated 2,977

handwritten letters encouraging Nashville first responders (one card in honor of each life lost on 9/11/01), created virtually accessible emergency preparedness resources tailored for the disability community, and hosted a blood drive to meet community needs after the Waverly, TN flooding.

Recognized as the largest volunteer project and public awareness campaign ever coordinated by The Arc Tennessee, this project brought together 410 volunteers from 39 partnering organizations, resulting in 804 hours of intentional service.

Thanks to a \$20,000 in support from The Arc of the United States, The Arc Tennessee was able to invest in the recording and dissemination of our first television commercial for this project, which was shared by The Tennessee Titans the weekend of Sept. 11th, 2021. Approximately 92,744 people viewed emergency preparedness trainings, plain-language materials, inclusive thank you videos saluting first responders, and printed newsletters. The project budget was \$20,000, resulting in 4.63 people reached with accessible emergency preparedness materials/messages for every \$1 invested. The I/DD community wrote 1,260 of the 2,977 handwritten cards for first responders (42%) and accounted for 1/3 of organizations partnering with The Arc Tennessee.

As we strengthen the community collaborations and online presence established in recent months, we look to the 22-23 fiscal year for solidifying more consistent communication strategies. The goal is to diversify the ways we reach our members and the general public. This will include setting up email campaigns, SMS texting, optimizing newsletter publications and increasing the advertisement of membership.



Scott Finney and Dara Bacon drop off thank you cards to the Metro Nashville Police Department.

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	FACEBOOK POSTS	FACEBOOK LIKES	TWITTER FOLLOWERS
4,118	264	3,617	786

LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS	LINKEDIN POSTS	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	INSTAGRAM POSTS
87	45	374	61

WEEKLY AWARENESS SUBSCRIBERS	TOTAL WEBSITE PAGES VIEWED	TOTAL WEBSITE UNIQUE USERS	THE CONNECTION DISTRIBUTION/YEAR
1,214	49,555	20,069	4,125

Fundraising and Development

Fundraising Events:

Though the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted nonprofits and funding for many organizations, The Arc Tennessee has experienced an increase in development victories. The Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee hosted the 14th annual Big Payback on May 4-5th. The Arc Tennessee raised \$10,981 within the 24-hour donation drive.

Overall, the organization ranked 88th out of 1004 nonprofits for total amount raised. This year, The Arc Tennessee had 81 unique donors, five of which were matching donations, and 12 peer-to-peer donation pages created by staff, board members and community supporters. The Best of the Ferrells peer-to-peer page brought in 35% of the overall donations received (\$3,804), ranking 17th out of 540 peer-to-peer pages.



You can't say no to Scott! This year Mr. Finney secured a \$1,000 match donation for his Big Payback page.

Light Up a Life also took place this year, grossing \$5,013 as an online virtual auction. Staff members worked hard to elicit over 60 auction items. The event was held the week of daylight savings time and attracted 62 registered bidders, with 16 donations made during the event!

Grants:

The Arc Tennessee also received \$1000 grant from the Nashville Predators Foundation.

Awards Recognition Program

The Arc Tennessee hosted a virtual Awards Banquet to honor those who have impacted the lives of people with I/DD and their families. This year's awards program was hosted by Alonzo Kelly along with our own Dylan Brown and celebrated eleven award winners.

- Community Service: Joan Burns
- Direct Support Professional: Janice Henderson
- Exemplary Educator: Valeria Cobb
- Work Initiative: Ben Schwartzman
- Inclusive Employer: Advanced Auto Parts Warehouse DC42
- Agency of Distinction: Tennessee Emergency Communications Board
- Public Awareness: Adelicia Company
- Self-Determination: Diamond Grigsby

- Promising Young Leader: Korey Dalton
- The Roger Blue Lifetime Achievement Award: Sharon Bottorff
- The Ruth Roberts Memorial: Elizabeth Cervantes
- Staff Values Award – Justice: Jonathan Martinis
- Staff Values Award – Respect: K-9 Companions Nashville
- The Jake Award: Katie Powers

The Arc Tennessee is planning to host an annual awards event on July 11, 2022. This event will include The Arc Tennessee awards, the ECF CHOICES DSP Awards, and the STEP Awards.

Diamond Grigsby won the 2021 Self-Determination award.



Our 2021-2022 Program Impact

Advocacy and Awareness

As we navigate the transition back to in person meetings, The Arc Tennessee has been able to continue to provide advocacy and outreach for people with I/DD. We continue to work with individuals and their families to help them access a variety of resources including People First of Tennessee, Employment and Community First (ECF) CHOICES, Katie Beckett Waiver, Family Support, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Partners in Policymaking, Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS), Peer Support, Tennessee Disability Pathfinder, Volunteer Advocacy Project, and more.

Advocacy and awareness are at the heart of all we do. Our team is recognized throughout the state for their dedication to ensuring people with I/DD are heard and their needs are met. They support families to be advocates for their loved ones with I/DD by educating them about the service delivery system. Our partnerships with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) and Managed Care Organizations (MCO) across the state allow our advocates to continue to provide support and information to those requesting advocacy services. Amongst other responsibilities, our knowledgeable team members:

- Ensure the person's voice is heard at meetings about housing, employment, healthcare, and civil rights
- Assist with appeals when services have been reduced or denied
- Create a support network when someone has been neglected, abused, or exploited and help them regain a sense of safety and control over their lives
- Educate self-advocates on how to best speak up for themselves

The Arc Tennessee is credentialed with Amerigroup, BlueCare and United HealthCare to provide services through the ECF CHOICES program, including Decision-Making

Supports, Health Insurance Forms Counseling, Peer-to-Peer Support, and Community Support, Development, Organization and Navigation.

As The Arc Tennessee's advocacy efforts involve interacting with and going into homes/agencies to work with people, we are required to maintain highly trained and expert reportable event management. In December 2021, our Director of Quality Improvement and Systems Change completed the training. The certification process is expected to be complete in May 2022. Reportable Event Management (REM) is an important component of an overall approach for ensuring the health, safety, individual freedom, and quality of life of people participating in home and community-based services (HCBS).

INDIVIDUALS RECEIVING ADVOCACY SERVICES	NUMBER OF NEW REFERRALS	NUMBER OF CLOSED REFERRALS
858	108	47

HEALTH CARE SURROGATE SUPPORTS	CIRCLE OF SUPPORT MEETINGS	SELF-ADVOCATE PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS
27	84	158

Emergency Assistance

There are times when financial support is the best way to address an individual or family's situation. The Arc Tennessee sets aside funds for these circumstances. This year we assisted 16 individuals and families for a total of \$3,200.00. Funds covered:

- Rent
- Utilities
- Groceries
- Medical expenses
- New water heater
- Moving truck rental
- Educational technology
- Evaluations for autism diagnosis
- Furniture replacement after a fire
- And more!

Tennessee Disability MegaConference

The 2021 Tennessee Disability MegaConference was a virtual event for the second year in a row. This year marked the first time The Arc Tennessee contracted with CVENT, an online event management program, to deliver two keynote sessions and 29 breakout sessions over the course of the two-day conference. Session topics included helpful information on housing, employment, special needs planning, enabling technology, and more.



TOTAL WEBSITE PAGES VIEWED	TOTAL WEBSITE UNIQUE USERS	2021 REGISTRATIONS	SPONSORSHIPS FOR 2021 CONFERENCE
3,342	1,281	208	\$12,300

Personal Assistance, Service and Supports (PASS) Program

Through grant support from DIDD, **The Arc Tennessee supports nine individuals with developmental disabilities to self-direct their supports and services.** This program created the model for self-direction in Tennessee. Individuals in the PASS Program do not receive other home or community-based services but need supports to live independently in the community. Most participants in the PASS Program work in competitive jobs. We support these individuals to manage their budgets, pay their support staff, and find creative technology solutions that increase their quality of life.

Family Engagement in Education

The Family Engagement Team has been busy navigating the many twists and turns of Special Education during the time of COVID. We've worked through some major changes in the structure of the Department of Education while building and maintaining the relationships we have there. Our regional team has continued outreach to districts in their areas, and we have been receiving more and more interest from schools in receiving trainings and planning parent support programs in their local districts. We've continued to serve as a resource for families who need help understanding the Special Education guidance coming down from the state.

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	FACEBOOK REACH	TWITTER FOLLOWERS	INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS
1,239	158,738	168	151

BLOG VISITS	FAMILY FRIENDLY RESOURCES CREATED	E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS	WEBPAGE HITS
4,285	39	1,005	5,496

The Family Engagement Project's Social Media

Website: <https://familyengagementtn.com/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fespedtn

Twitter: @FESPED_TN

Instagram: @fespedtn

Federal law assures that every child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education (FAPE). However, sometimes students with disabilities and their families face challenges navigating the special education system. The Tennessee Department of Education contracts with The Arc Tennessee to provide services and supports to help prepare young adults for life after high school through the following programs:

TRAININGS/PRESENTATIONS	MENTORING ASSISTANCE
160	177

IEP MEETINGS ATTENDED	IEP MEETING PREP WORK ASSISTANCE
46	57

People First TN



The Arc Tennessee supports self-advocates as they learn leadership through the People First project, which is funded through a partnership with the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD). People First Tennessee has an active Advisory Council with membership from across the state. They are recruiting members and developing local chapters. People First partnered with the Tennessee Disability Coalition to have virtual meetings with their legislators this year.

MEMBERS	LOCAL CHAPTERS	OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS
313	5	105

Tennessee Center for Decision-Making Support

The Arc Tennessee continued to manage the TN Center for Decision-Making Support through the partnership with the Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights TN. For this year, the Center continued to oversee and manage the website and website updates; provide limited one-on-one assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members, educators and professionals; conduct webinars and presentations across the state; collaborate with Disability Rights TN, DIDD and the contracted private attorney to handle complex conservatorship cases; provide education and training regarding the usage of Supported Decision-Making tools and the website; and provide resources and legal referrals to families regarding decision-making supports.

For this year, the Center's primary focus was to provide the ongoing information and referral services, continue to manage and update the website, increase public awareness of the Center, increase collaboration with other state agencies and organizations, and enhance resources by developing videos, trainings, and educational materials. The Center is still completing the videos and trainings. In addition, the Center began working on the development of a comprehensive database to record and track all inquiries and legal casework. This database is still under development.

The Center leadership team decided to restructure the Center Advisory group. Meetings were changed from bi-monthly to quarterly. Meetings were held the 1st Tuesday of each quarter. Subcommittees were developed to assist with specific projects such as the development of videos and training materials and the development of parameters for vetting best practice resource materials for the website. The Advisory Group is provided a mid-quarter update of the subcommittee work and any vital information related to the Center.

For this fiscal year, the Center provided the following services:

TRAININGS/PRESENTATIONS CONDUCTED (VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON)	PRESENTATION ATTENDANCE
29	420

ASSISTANCE INQUIRIES (EMAIL & PHONE)	INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS (VIRTUAL) PROVIDED	REFERRALS & RESOURCES PROVIDED
112	78	296

*ONE-ON-ONE LIMITED ASSISTANCE (BEYOND AN INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATION)	**CONSERVATORSHIP CASES
20	12

* One-on-one assistance may consist of ongoing limited assistance to help resolve decision-makings support issues or obtain the necessary resources. This can include multiple calls, emails or meetings with the individual, family, supporters, or professionals to help resolve the issue. These cases can take weeks to months to resolve.

**Conservatorship cases may be coordinating with legal counsel and the Circle of Support on a conservatorship modification, rights restoration or providing assistance/support to the individual or support team to help with the process of a conservatorship legal action. This casework can take months or longer to resolve. Some of these cases were continued from FR 2021.

Peer Support Academy

We have already had two groups of peers go through the Peer Support training provided by DISABILITY Link, a center for independent living in Atlanta, Georgia. We have 17 trained peer supporters ready to provide this service, representing all three regions of the state with a diverse group of disabilities and experiences to share. We hope to have another group go through the training to reach a goal of 30 trained peer supporters ready to provide hands on counseling to fellow peers. We have already started receiving referrals, and peer to peer support in Tennessee can now be realized by more Tennesseans with disabilities as another tool in the arsenal to get ahead and take charge of their lives and potential!

We continue trying to get the word out about this opportunity by sharing with disability organizations in the state, attending regional meetings for the three Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and attending transition fairs. This service could be the catalyst needed to get a person with a disability to take that next step towards a more independent and fulfilling life!

Public Policy Advocacy

Advocacy has always been, and will continue to be, the heart of The Arc Tennessee. Whether we are defending human and civil rights through public policy efforts, partnering with key stakeholders to create change in the way services are delivered, or addressing an individual's personal needs, the goal is always to improve the quality of

life for people with I/DD and their families. A generous grant from The Healing Trust helps support our advocacy work. Though there are many ways this grant is being used to expand our reach, here are just a few examples of public policy advocacy in action:

- Partnered with Vanderbilt Kennedy Center on Kindred Stories on Housing
- Worked together with other advocacy groups to promote families and self-advocates to attend townhall meetings coordinated by the TN Department of Education; students with disabilities were one of the top three topics leadership heard about
- Signed on to a Letter of Support regarding the proposed Tennessee Investment in Students Act legislation that then became law
- Supported the work of The Arc US at the federal level to advocate for increased federal HCBS services
- Submitted public comment on the following topics:
 - Department of Education Commissioner regarding TISA
 - Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities about Tennessee Early Intervention Services
 - Letter to legislature about TISA outcomes
 - Letter to legislature about HB34 (Teacher Assaults)
 - The U.S. Department of Homeland Security Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Public Charge
- Coordinated five virtual meetings with U.S. Senators and Congressmen during Disability Policy Seminar
- Disability Day on the Hill was a huge success! Over 300 community members attended the advocacy training webinar hosted by the Tennessee Disability Coalition with another 60+ views after the fact on YouTube. Over 30 meetings with legislators were scheduled during this year's Disability Day on the Hill.

ACTION ALERTS	BILLS TRACKED	WEEKLY CALLS DURING SESSION	LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS
2	125	14	10

Bills Update

Support

The Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement (or TISA), proposed a new “weighted” funding formula for public schools to replace the 30-year-old Basic Education Plan (BEP)

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=HB2143&emci=22bc0337-1ac7-ec11-997e-281878b83d8a&emdi=8ca955bc-f7c7-ec11-997e-281878b83d8a&ceid=454421>

Adult Changing Tables – this bill establishes funds for rest stops, welcome centers, and state parks across the state to install adult-sized changing tables in their universal/family bathrooms The General Assembly included **\$1 million** in the budget to make this happen without passing legislation.

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=SB0602>

Accessible Prescription Labels Act – this bill required the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate rules that make accessible prescription labels available to those individuals who request them

<https://legiscan.com/TN/bill/HB1999/2021>

Vocational Rehabilitation Changes – this bill established new advisory boards for Vocational Rehabilitation centers across the state and requires that VR centers work with the local community to provide VR services to participants

<https://legiscan.com/TN/bill/SB2650/2021>

Sub-Minimum Wage Prohibition – this bill prohibits employers from paying people with disabilities a wage below the minimum wage

<https://www.capitol.tn.gov/Bills/112/Bill/SB2042.pdf>

HJR0733 – I/DD Respect Resolution

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/default.aspx?BillNumber=HJR0733&GA=112>

Oppose

Teacher Assault Penalties – this bill would extend enhanced penalties for assaulting a first responder or nurse to teachers

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/Default.aspx?BillNumber=HB1934>

Anti-Affirmative Action for Disability - – this bill prohibits “preferential treatment” based on disability in public university admissions, public employment, or public contracts.

<https://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/BillInfo/default.aspx?BillNumber=SB2440&GA=112>

Leadership and Systems Change

The Arc Tennessee is recognized both in Tennessee and nationally for its advocacy around critical issues impacting people with I/DD and their families, and for identifying and implementing best practices. We are team players and solution driven. The Arc Tennessee is active in over 100 task forces, advisory groups, and councils at the local, state and national level. Examples of The Arc Tennessee's participation at the federal, state, and local activities include:

- DIDD:
 - Member, Developmental Disabilities Policy and Planning Council (DDPPC)
 - Chair, East Tennessee Regional Policy and Planning Council
 - Members, Statewide Policy and Planning Council
 - Member, Employment First Taskforce
 - Member, Employment First Mental Health Subcommittee
 - Member, Regional Human Rights Committees
 - Regional Abuse and Neglect Committee
 - Harold Jordan Center Admission Review Team
 - Enabling Technology
 - Participate in monthly self-advocate focus groups in East, Middle and West
- TennCare:
 - Member, ECF CHOICES Stakeholder Advisory Group
 - Member ECF CHOICES Statewide Leadership Transformation Team
 - Member, ECF CHOICES East
 - Member, CHOICES Advisory Council
 - Member, Katie Beckett Technical Advisory Council
 - TennCare State Leadership Team
 - TennCare Tech Advisory
- Managed Care Organizations (MCOs):
 - Member of Amerigroup Advisory Councils
 - Member of BlueCare Advisory Councils
 - Member of United Healthcare Advisory Council
- DOE:
 - Member, Statewide Transition Leadership Team
 - Member, TN-TAN Network
 - Member, TISA Sub-Committee for Students with Disabilities/Gifted
 - Member, TISA Special Education Engagement Committee
 - Member, TISA Outcomes Committee
 - Participate in Advisory Council for Education for Students with Disabilities
- Other:
 - Member, AimHiTN Advisory Council
 - Member, Center for Supported Decision-Making Advisory Council
 - Member, UTHSC for Developmental Disabilities Community Advisory Committee

- Treasurer, Brain Injury Association of Tennessee (BIAT)
- Chair, Disability Coalition on Education (DCE)
- Member, Tennessee Disability Coalition Board
- Member, Tennessee Disability Coalition Small Grants Committee
- Member, Boling Center Community Advisory Council
- Member, Disability Policy Alliance
- Member, Next Steps at Vanderbilt Advisory Council
- Member, VKC Community Advisory Council
- Member, BNA ADA Advisory Group
- Member, Support and Training for Exceptional Parents Board
- Member, Miracle League of Chattanooga Board
- Member, VKC Public Policy Committee
- Member, Ochs Research Council
- Member, Aim Center Housing Board
- Member, Chattanooga Autism Consortium Board
- Member/Coach, Special Olympics Board
- Member, Tennessee Adult Brothers and Sisters
- Member, Rutherford County Family Support Council
- District Representative for the Rutherford County Family Support Program
- Member, Heart of Tennessee Toastmasters
- Member, Honoring Choices Advisory
- Member, Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network
- Member, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
- Member, Conservatorship Association of Tennessee
- Member, Charter School Application Committee, Williamson County Schools
- Member, Mayor's Council of Chattanooga
- Assistant Vice President, Junior League Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Board Member, Gigi's Playhouse
- East WIOA Youth Council
- Williamson County School Board
- Williamson County Student Support Services Parent Advisory Council

Examples of The Arc Tennessee's national activities include:

- Co-Chair, NCE Chapter Resource Committee
- Policy & Legislative Advisor, Self Advocates Becoming Empowered

Conference Presentations and other Guest Speaking Engagements

- The Arc of the United States National Convention
- Tennessee Disability MegaConference
- Americare
- Heart of Tennessee Toastmasters
- Amerigroup, Middle

- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, East
- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, Middle
- Amerigroup ECF Advisory, West
- BlueCare, East
- BlueCare, Middle
- BlueCare, West
- DIDD Focus Group – East Region
- DIDD Focus Group – Middle Region
- DIDD Focus Group – West Region
- Arc US Leadership Conference
- TASH
- Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
- Clinical Consultation Network
- DIDD Staff and Member Advocates
- DIDD Focus Group – East
- DIDD Focus Group – Middle
- DIDD Focus Group - West
- People First
- National Association of Council on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Unit 12 Team
- TABS Chat (Tennessee Adult Brothers and Sisters)
- Valor Collegiate
- City of Chattanooga, CIT Training
- Rhea County Transition Fair
- Conservatorship Association of TN
- AAAD Leadership
- Shelbyville High School
- Maury Co Family Engagement Support Group
- Tullahoma HS Support Group
- Vocational Rehabilitation Pre-ETS Staff
- Volunteer Advocacy Project
- ASSIST
- Hamilton County Support Group
- Maury County Parent Support Group Meeting for Families Involved in Special Education
- Tullahoma Parent Support Group Meeting for Families Involved in Special Education
- Perry County Schools
- Franklin County Schools
- Giles County Schools
- Bedford County Schools
- Marion County Department of Education
- Tennessee Emergency Board Policy Committee
- Tennessee Emergency Board

- Madonna Learning Center
- TransitionTN
- Public Partnerships
- Tennessee Disability Pathfinder
- Vanderbilt University (Master's Level Class)
- The Arc Davidson County
- Down Syndrome Association of Middle Tennessee
- BCBST Member Only Group
- The Arc Mid-South
- Next Steps
- Partners in Policymaking
- Tennessee School for the Deaf
- Special Education Institute, TN Department of Education

Looking Ahead

Fiscal year 2022-2023 promises to be yet another year of exploring new boundaries around self-advocacy, support decision making, family engagement and education. The Arc Tennessee is looking forward to continuing to impact services and supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across the state.

Ways You Can Help - Fundraising Events and Ways to Donate

Your donation matters! Whether it is your time, talent or treasure, there are many ways to help The Arc Tennessee expand our ability to provide emergency assistance, individual advocacy, special education assistance, provide decision-making supports and more.

Light up a Life is an annual giving campaign and silent auction that raises money to support The Arc Tennessee. Volunteers are needed to help with securing sponsors and silent auction items. Contact Gavin Dillinger at gdillinger@thearctn.org for more information.





Donate a Car: You can donate your used car, van, truck, boat with a trailer, or recreational vehicle seven days a week, 24 hours a day. We accept any vehicles regardless of age and condition!
<http://www.theearctn.org/Car-Donation.php>

Kroger Rewards

If you participate in this program, every time you shop at Kroger and use the rewards card you already have, you will be donating to The Arc Tennessee. Go to

<https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>
and sign up using The Arc Tennessee's unique ID **37451**.



Amazon Smile

When customers shop on Smile Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers. Under Your Account, select The Arc TN as your charitable organization. <https://smile.amazon.com/>

Give a gift in honor of or in memory of someone close to your heart and the family will receive acknowledgment and mention in The Arc Connection newsletter.

Donate online

The Arc Tennessee operates through grants and private donations, so every dollar counts! Support Tennessee's disability community by making a donation today!
<https://www.theearctn.org/get-involved/donate/>

Mail a check

545 Mainstream Drive, Suite 100
Nashville, TN 37228

Find businesses and secure approvals from them to place gumball/candy machines

Planned Giving

A charitable bequest is simply a distribution from your estate to The Arc Tennessee through your last will and testament. For more information go to
<https://www.theearctn.org/get-involved/donate/>.

Scan QR code below to visit our website to get involved and donate.



Special Thanks to Our Corporate Sponsor

