

Being an Affiliated Chapter of The Arc

Achieve with us.



Many chapters of The Arc do not always take advantage of the benefits of affiliation in working with the state and national organization of more than 700 Chapters of all sizes and configurations throughout the United States.

With our affiliated Chapters, The Arc is the largest community-based organization for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) leading a national movement advocating for and supporting families and individuals with I/DD across their lifetimes and across all diagnoses.

With a strong state and national presence, The Arc is here to support chapters in what they do best – meeting the unique needs of people with I/DD and their families.

Chapters come in all sizes and shapes but all share Core Values, Guiding Principles, and Common Components and Characteristics

The Arc shares a commitment to Core Values which influence and inform our work

- People First
- Equity
- Community
- Self-determination
- Diversity

The Arc operates under these Guiding Principles

- Participatory Democracy
- Visionary Leadership
- Public Interest
- Collaboration
- Transparency, Integrity and Excellence

The Arc Chapters, regardless of size and budget, share Common Components and Characteristics

- Public Policy Advocacy and Participation
- Outreach in the Community
- Self Advocacy
- Family Support
- Membership
- Partnership, Collaboration and Participation with State and National Initiatives and Activities



John Dickerson, Executive Director of The Arc of Indiana wrote, “Often, local members and leaders of The Arc consider this question: ‘*What does The Arc do for our chapter that justifies the amount of Affiliation Fee Dues we are required to pay?*’”

Let me respond to that question in two ways.

First, The Arc of the United States and The Arc of Indiana offers a variety of benefits and services to its chapters. These are fully detailed in this resource manual.

Secondly, permit me to re-phrase the question a bit: “What does The Arc do for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in my community that justifies the amount of Affiliation Fees we are required to pay.”

I hope you will agree that this is the more important question. The greatest value of The Arc of the US and The Arc of Indiana comes in its contribution to the lives and futures of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Consider the following list of services and think of someone you know who has benefited from them: Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Medicaid-funded Home and Community-based Waiver services, Supplemental Security Income, Case Management Services and Early Childhood Intervention Services.

All of these services, and more, were developed as a result of the advocacy of The Arcs of the United States and Indiana. It is likely that many of these services would not be available today to our friends and family members had it not been for the dynamic and persistent work of The Arc of the United States in our nation’s Capitol. Our national organization has been responsible for the development of virtually every program, service, right and benefit now enjoyed by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in your community.

Without The Arc of the United States and The Arc of Indiana (and all of our local chapters) life would be very different for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. The Arc advocates for the full rights and participation of all children and adults with developmental disabilities. Together with our network of affiliated chapters and members, we improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire communities; and influence public policy.

Without a doubt, there is no other organization doing more to promote self-advocacy and family empowerment; address the waiting list, bring significant support in new and innovative ways to families and individuals.”



What Affiliation Offers

We invite chapters to explore the opportunities and benefits available as a chapter of The Arc.

A Strong State and National Identity: Use of The Arc's trademarked name and logo which unites us under a dynamic banner of achievement. This identity is known and respected by academics, professionals and others involved in the I/DD community across the U.S.

A Seat at the Table: Take a seat at the table to influence the direction of public policy benefitting the people you serve. The Arc works on the state and national level to advance public policy to protect and enhance vital programs and services for people with I/DD. Two-way communication between The Arc and our Chapters gives you firsthand information on hot issues and allows us to help you with local grassroots advocacy efforts.

Organizational Support: Excel with resources to help with nonprofit governance and management, marketing assistance and guidance in best practices. The Arc also provides the structure for a strong network of organizations like yours to keep each other informed and in touch with solutions to our most critical issues.

Resources at Your Fingertips: Access to staff and materials to help your chapter succeed, including Standards for Excellence© materials, educational webinars, marketing, development, member and public relations support, and other resources to take your organization to the next level. *Connect* with The Medicaid Reference Desk, The Arc Network, The Arc Trust and *Autism Now*.

Collaborative Fundraising: Take advantage of a platform for raising funds such as our online vehicle donation program or our collaborative fundraising efforts, with the goal of bringing much needed revenue to local chapters. Benefit from grants pursued by The Arc such as the \$3 million School-to-Community Transition Initiative, the \$1.87 million ADD grant which created our Autism NOW national information and resource center or the *eExplore eRecycling* Grants available to chapters. Other projects that have funded Indiana Chapters have included a Guardianship Project, the Oakley/ Lieberman Prevention Fund Funding and the Minority Outreach Project.

Savings: Access the benefits and economies of scale offered by partners of The Arc that can save your organization thousands in operating costs through group purchasing and volume discounts on products and services such as: The Arc US Group Purchasing Program; insurance and retirement programs; vehicle fleet purchases; The Arc's E-Store and more.

Top-Notch Training: Benefit from monthly webinars, state and national conferences, and other meetings and seminars. Training opportunities at the state and national level are available to affiliated chapters, including discounts on key offerings.

Individual and Family Support: Individual and family members of a local chapter are automatically state and national members at no cost. Members who are individuals with I/DD can join, at no cost, the National Council of Self Advocates and siblings can join the National Sibling Council.

Professional Development and Support: Join a strong network of experienced, top executives of The Arc offering personal and professional support and development with the Indiana Conference of Executives of The Arc of Indiana (ICEArc) and the National Conference of Executives (NCE).



Summary of Chapter Benefits

A local Arc Chapter in Indiana reflects the core values of The Arc of Indiana and The Arc of the United States. As an affiliated chapter organizations have agreed to the rights and responsibilities of being a chapter; and in turn, chapter affiliation provides a special relationship with the state and national chapter and the benefits that come with this affiliation. The following lists the “basic” benefits of chapter affiliation.

- Public Policy Advocacy at the state and national level with direct involvement/input in formulating policy on critical issues and participation in annual legislative events.
- Sharing the strength of a state and national advocacy organization as symbolized by use of The Arc’s brand and trademark with the license to use all copyrighted or proprietary information/materials from The Arc US.
- Involvement with and having access to a state and national network for local best practices, shared strategies, education and training, conferences, webinars and participation in advocacy, program services and projects.
- Access to The Arc’s network of programmatic resources, information and materials, The Arc of Indiana’s COVOH Collaborative Decision Lab and the Video Conference Network.
- Access to The Arc of Indiana’s Experienced Staff
 - Governmental Affairs/Advocacy
 - Development
 - Communications/Public Relations
 - Programs, Services and Rights
 - Self-Advocacy
 - Organizational Development and Membership
 - Planning for the Future / The Arc Master Trust
- Funding opportunities recently have included Car Donation Program, eXplore eRecycling Grants, School to Community Transition Grants, Minority Outreach Project, and the Oakley/Lieberman Prevention Fund, and Works of Arc – online art gallery and store.
- Listing on websites with local links, newsletter & other media coverage and *shared* promotion and marketing, fundraising and membership development activities.
- Representation at the meetings of The Arcs of Indiana and the US, exercising the voting powers, duties, and responsibilities of the membership at annual meetings. Chapter members, volunteers, and staff serve and participate on The Arc’s state and national committees and work groups.
- Professional Membership opportunities in ICEArc and The National Conference of Executives of The Arc.
- Economies of scale through group purchasing and volume discounts on products and services such as: The Arc US Group Purchasing Program; insurance and retirement programs; vehicle fleet purchases; The Arc’s E-Store and more.
- Connected to *Autism NOW*, the nation's source for resources and information on community-based solutions for individuals with autism, other developmental disabilities, and their families.
- *The Arc Network*, connecting families, and *The Medicaid Reference Desk* is a tool to help people with intellectual and developmental disabilities find out what Medicaid can offer them.
- Right of first refusal on sponsorship/promotional opportunities when annual events are still in development phase, before The Arc of Indiana event promotion has begun.
- Invitation to special events during the year.
- Chapters & Individual Members can receive newsletters and various services and benefits from The Arc US affinity partners.
- Individual members of local chapter are automatically state and national members at no cost.
- Individual members of The Arc who are siblings can join, at no cost, the National Sibling Council
- Individual members of The Arc who are persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities can join, at no cost, the National Council of Self Advocates.
- Certificate of affiliation.

With more than 7 million people with intellectual & developmental disabilities The Arc network is one of the 10 largest not-for-profit networks with more than \$3.6 billion in annual revenue, directly serving 533,300 persons with I/DD and 509,600 family members. The network is the largest provider of autism services in the nation.



Why The Arc?

- The Arc is one of the TEN largest not-for-profit networks in The United States with more than \$3.6 BILLION dollars in annual revenue throughout its network of 700+ chapters.
- The Arc's constituency is huge - - it is estimated that there are more than 7 million people in the United States living with intellectual and developmental disabilities...
- There are 60 million people that have a family member with an intellectual or developmental disability, and another 60 million who know someone with I/DD.
- A survey of chapters indicates that The Arc serves 533,267 persons with I/DD and 509,513 family members.
- Largest provider of autism services in the country.
- In Indiana we have 20,000 members.
- We are more than TWICE the size of The Boys and Girls Clubs of America.
- We are TEN times the size of Special Olympics.
- We are more than FIFTY times the size of Autism Speaks.
- We are bigger than The ACLU and The NAACP *combined*.