



# Advocacy: Taking Action



**The Arc**

Southern Maryland  
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THE MORE VOICES WE CAN JOIN TOGETHER, THE MORE IMPACT WE WILL HAVE.

*Achieve with us.*

## Advocacy: Taking Action

As a self-advocate, family member, loved one, or active citizen, you may be wondering how you can get involved and where to start to make a difference in the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). We've collected some simple resources to share for you to get involved today!

### Ways to Take Action

- 1.) [Join the Disability Advocacy Network](#)  
"Be a part of the Disability Advocacy Network and get information about public policy issues impacting people with I/DD, and know when to take timely action. Receive information about what's going on in The Arc's network throughout the year..."
- 2.) [Join the Annapolis Insider](#)  
"Stay up to date by checking the Annapolis Insider for weekly updates issued on Fridays during the Maryland General Assembly."
- 3.) [Follow The Arc's Action Center](#)  
Check back often for more ways to get involved.
- 4.) [Sign up for State Advocacy Matters](#)  
"State Advocacy Matters was launched in 2015 to provide chapters and members of The Arc and the general public a broad overview of the wide and diverse range of state advocacy work that The Arc's state chapters are engaged in nationwide. Issues covered include: civil rights, community-

based long term supports and services, direct support professionals, education, employment, family support, health care, housing, technology, transportation, and more. State Advocacy Matters is issued on a quarterly basis."

#### 5.) [Current Legislature](#)

Review the current legislature in the Maryland General Assembly.

#### 6.) [Contact Your Representatives](#)

Find your Maryland representatives' contacts. Send them your stories and requests. Let them know how you feel about the things that impact you or your loved ones with I/DD.

Not sure how to get started? [Here are some tips](#) for getting prepared to reach out and make an impact.

### Priority Initiatives

The Arc Southern Maryland recently formed their Advisory Committee, comprised of self-advocates, family members, and others that want to take action. The group has decided to focus on two top priority legislative initiatives: employment and housing.

Please take the time to read The Arc's position statements on both of these priority areas:

- [Employment](#)
- [Housing](#)

### [Share Your Story: What is Important to YOU About Community Living?](#)

"Many people with disabilities rely on Medicaid-funded Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to live and thrive in their communities. We must continue to advocate to protect the integrity of the Medicaid program and ensure that funds for community services be spent in the community. We need to share real stories, your stories about why community matters. Tell us about how you – as a person who receives HCBS services, a family member, friend, or provider – have an improved quality of life, more independence, more opportunities because of Medicaid-funded HCBS services. Tell us about your life in the community and about what participating in the community means to you. We particularly encourage stories from people who have transitioned to the community from an institution and from people with significant support needs. We want to share the importance of inclusion of ALL individuals with disabilities."

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