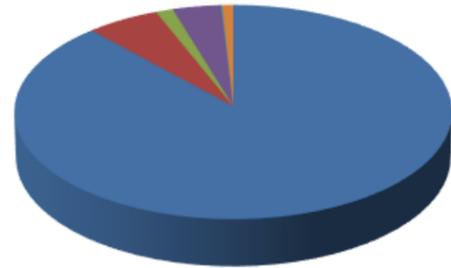


The Arc Michigan
2020 Financial Summary

The Arc Michigan Chapters

Revenues \$3,901,176



- Grants \$3,441,638
- Other Operational \$222,893
- Membership \$52,700
- Development \$146,321
- United Way \$4,217
- Interest \$33,407
- Conference \$0

Expenses 3,723,979



- Salaries/Benefits \$2,008,915
- Contracted Services \$1,240,106
- Other Program Expenses \$227,926
- Office Expense/Overhead \$237,636
- Payment to Arc US \$9,396

The Arc Michigan is a United Way Agency
1325 S. Washington Avenue,
Lansing, Michigan 48910

517.487.5426 or
800.292.7851
www.arcmi.org



- ARC/Allegan County
- The Arc Arenac Area
- The Arc Bay County
- The Arc of Calhoun County
- The Arc Downriver
- ARC/Gogebic Chapter
- The Arc of Central Michigan
- The Arc Community Advocates
- The Arc Kent County
- The Arc of Livingston County
- The Arc of Macomb County
- ARC/Manistee
- The Arc of Midland
- The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
- The Arc Muskegon
- The Arc/Newaygo County
- The Arc of Oakland County, Inc.
- ARC Ogemaw/Roscommon Counties
- ARC Advocacy & Resource Center (Ottawa County)
- The Arc Mid-Michigan
- The Arc of St. Clair County
- Van Buren ARC
- Washtenaw Association for Community Advocacy
- Arc Grosse Pointe/Harper Woods
- The Arc Dearborn
- The Arc Detroit
- The Arc of Northwest Wayne County
- The Arc of Western Wayne County
- S.P.E.A.K.S. (Eastern U.P.)



The Arc
Michigan

Achieve with us.

2020 Annual Report

Dear Members and Friends of The Arc Michigan:

I am honored to serve as The Arc Michigan’s Board President. 2020 was another year of persistent public policy advocacy. With the new world of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Arc Michigan had to refocus its public policy efforts toward increasing direct care worker wages, addressing the threat of health care rationing, and advocating for access to Covid-19 testing, access to telehealth services and most recently, vaccine prioritization for people with disabilities. These efforts will continue in the new year and beyond. The Arc Michigan will continue to advocate for service system improvements and continue to voice the importance of maintaining a public mental health system where everyone has access to authentic Person-Centered Planning, Self-Directed Services, Independent Facilitation and Conflict Free Case Management. We believe that integration is at the person level, not at the administrative/financial level as some would lead you to believe. Additionally, The Arc will continue to push for more General Fund dollars to be placed into the public mental health system. There simply is not enough of those in the current budget to provide adequate service to all people with disabilities in Michigan.

We must not forget that Michigan’s constitution provides that services for, and the public health of, people with disabilities will “always be fostered and supported.” The Arc intends to keep reminding those who are making financial and system policy. The Arc will also continue to help create more inclusive and independent lives for individuals with disabilities through training and support, as well as public policy and systems advocacy.

The Arc Michigan knows our strength lies in the partnerships we have with our 29 local chapters and our many other advocacy partners across the state. Together we can continue to accomplish great things. And continue to “fight the good fight”, as the saying goes. To keep the energy, direction and efforts going, we will continue to need your help. Thank you very much for all you do.

Andrea Lane

Andrea Lane
President

Sherri Boyd
Executive Director



Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)

provides information, education and support for families with students (from birth to age 26) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) early intervention or special education services.

The work of MAF is done by Regional Parent Mentors (RPMs) and supported by central Information and Referral staff, all of whom are family members of individuals with disabilities. Regional Parent Mentors can connect families of children with disabilities to resources to help improve their children’s education and mentor them in becoming a more active participant in their child’s Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP). This year, mentors assisted 1788 parents to review/prepare for IFSPs or IEPs or help problem solve an issue a parent was facing, including navigating special education services during the COVID-19 pandemic. MAF helps facilitate parent involvement as a means of improving educational services and outcomes for students with disabilities. **No matter where you are in Michigan, you can connect with a Regional Parent Mentor in your part of the state.**

In 2020, MAF trainers, along with our state partners and RPMs offered 82 in-person and virtual learning opportunities. Learning opportunities were held regionally and statewide. We had a total of 2353 participants, of whom 1429 were parents, 889 were professionals, and 35 were students with a disability.

Topics include:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Special Education and COVID-19
- Participating in Virtual IEP Meetings
- Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports
- Mental Health and Education
- Planning for Future Employment
- Rethinking Guardianship

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, MAF will continue to offer a full calendar of virtual learning opportunities, including live and archived webinars, videos, and courses. Families can watch 55+ different webinar and video presentations at home, at their own pace at www.youtube.com/michiganalliance

All of our archived webinar presentations have been closed-captioned through a partnership with Michigan Department of Education’s Center for Educational Networking (CEN). Additionally, accommodations are available for all of our live learning opportunities.

Families can access many resources at www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org, by calling **1.800.552.4821** or by emailing info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Michigan Alliance for Families keeps in touch with families via a monthly e-newsletter and event notification system. Not signed up? Go to: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/newsletter

MAF is funded by grants from the Michigan Department of Education - (1) Office of Special Education and (2) Office of Great Start /Early Childhood Development and Family Education; and the US Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs as our state’s Parent Training and Information Center.

Committees & Boards

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- HCBS Implementation Advisory Group
- MDDC Public Policy Work Group
- MDDC Quarterly Meetings
- MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Group
- HCBS Heightened Scrutiny Review Team

Michigan Department of Education

- *Early On* Michigan Interagency Coordinating Council Standing Committees
- Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- MI Interagency Transition Team

Board and Advocacy Groups

- Michigan Family Voices
- Citizens Advisory Council for the Developmental Disabilities Institute, Wayne State University
- Michigan ADA Steering Committee
- Michigan Adult Foster Care Advisory Council
- Michigan Olmstead Coalition
- Michigan WIPA Coalition

The Arc Michigan facilitates:

- DD Practice Improvement Team
- MI Statewide Advocacy Group
- Supported Decision-Making Whole Group
- Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition

The Arc Michigan Board

Executive Committee

- | | |
|--|--|
| Andrea Lane
President | Shari Fitzpatrick
Treasurer |
| Maureen Dempsey
Vice President | Ron Kimball
Past President |
| Maria Messina
Secretary | Tom Kendziorski
MCE Representative |

Directors at Large

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Mark McWilliams
Lansing | Mick Musial
West Bloomfield |
| Robert White
Clarkston | Patti Nowak
Mt. Pleasant |
| Dr. Alexa Joshua
Detroit | Robert Steinkamp
Holt |
| Tom Lerchen
Saline | Liz Leach
Calumet |

Arc Michigan Newsletters, Action Alerts, Appeals & Governmental Affairs Updates

The Arc Michigan sent an average of three newsletters per month to **2748** subscribers. Don’t miss out on what’s happening, sign up at <https://arcmi.org/newsletter-signup/>. Past e-Newsletters can be found on our website under **Newsletter Archives**, or by visiting <https://arcmi.org/resource-center/newsletter-archive/>

PCP Quality Project

The Arc Michigan's PCP Quality Project began in 2019, in partnership with MDHHS, with the goal of evaluating and improving current Person-Centered Planning (PCP) practices across the Behavioral Health System in Michigan. The first phase of this project included interviews held with individuals and families who receive public mental health services from all 10 Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan (PIHP) Regions. These initial interviews provided MDHHS with baseline data on quality measures related to PCP and will allow for a measurement for improvement moving forward. As the project moves into the second phase, data gathered during initial interviews will be used in partnership with MDHHS to inform training and quality improvement initiatives across Michigan's public mental health system. The project is currently facilitating free monthly webinars on a variety of topics related to Person-Centered Planning, including Self-Determination, Independent Facilitation, Medical Necessity, etc. More information is available from Project Coordinator Marie Eagle, who can be reached at marie@arcmi.org

The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust

The Arc Michigan opened its Pooled Amenities Trust five years ago. A pooled trust offers a way to protect and manage resources for people with disabilities, without risking their public benefits. The assets in this type of trust are "pooled" together for purposes of investment, but each person is assigned a sub-account to track their individual funds. Pooling makes it possible to join the trust with less money than is generally needed to create a traditional special needs trust, making it an excellent option for families of modest means and individuals who find themselves with an inheritance, insurance payout, or legal settlement that could threaten their benefits. Assets in a pooled trust may be used to procure those items and experiences that are not specifically meant to be purchased with public benefits, but which can enhance the person's quality of life. Participation in a pooled trust begins with the signing of a Joinder Agreement - a document that dictates the terms of the trust. The Joinder Agreement may be signed by the individual, a family member or third-party for someone else's benefit, or the court.

As of December 31, 2020, The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust held assets totaling \$982,588 with 22 sub-account holders, and had paid nearly \$17,000 to The Arc Michigan for the administration of the trust over the last year.

More information is available at: <https://arcmi.org/projects/the-arc-michigan-pooled-amenities-trust/> or contact Cathy McRae, the project coordinator at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or PooledTrust@arcmi.org.



A project to assist people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI):

- to understand and use work incentives in beginning or returning to work,
- to correctly report wages, including those from self-employment, and expenses that may reduce countable income,
- to understand the impact of work on Medicaid and Medicare coverage,
- to understand the relationship of work to disability benefits, other state and federal benefits, such as food and housing assistance, Veteran's Administration benefits or Unemployment Insurance, and
- to improve individual financial outcomes.

On July 1, 2019, the Arc Michigan began a two year extension of our five year WIPA project, granted by the Social Security Administration and serving 27 counties through three regional hubs. Between January 1, and December 31, 2020, nearly 500 individuals had been referred to our WIPA project, with about 20% receiving an in-depth Benefits Summary and Analysis, 23% receiving personal assistance, and another 23% receiving information and referral, to assist in achieving their goals.



The Arc Michigan WIPA
2015-2020 Regional Hubs

Though the pandemic resulted in a slight decrease in referrals and in-depth services from past years, the fact that WIPA services can be delivered remotely enabled us to continue to meet individual needs, and to provide valuable information and assistance on pandemic related issues, such as: stimulus payments, unemployment and Medicaid continuation.

The site is located at: <http://miwipa.org>
Cathy McRae, the project coordinator, can be reached at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or cathy.mcrae@arcmi.org



Our Facebook page, located at <https://www.facebook.com/TheArcMichigan/> has 2,197 "Likes" and 2506 "Followers".



Our Twitter account is located at <https://twitter.com/ArcMichigan> and has 536 "Followers."



Project

Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS) is a grant project designed to address the issues with **consistency, availability, and access to the tools and supports** that people with developmental disabilities need to control their services and live self-directed, self-determined lives. PAS is a collaborative effort with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Administration and is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disability Council.

Advancement Teams

PAS provides free state-level technical assistance, training, and support to local Advancement Teams wishing to improve or refine their self-direction processes.

- Teams were developed with Macomb County Community Mental Health, Au Sable Valley Community Mental Health, Oakland Community Health Network, and Detroit-Wayne Integrated Health Network.

Advisory Council

- Research self-determination policies, procedures, effective models and best practices
- Develop/refine state requirements and standards that ensure consistent, quality person-centered planning that result in changes in MDHHS/BHDDA policies, procedures, guidance, and technical assistance.

2020 Activities

- Due to Covid 19 restrictions, no new Advancement Teams were added to the project.
- Michigan's Self-Directed Services Policy was updated, and Technical Requirements were developed.
- Development of training for people with disabilities and family members about the clarifications/updates to the S-D Policy.

2021 Projected Activities (final year of the grant)

- New Advancement Team to begin in 2021 at LifeWays Community Mental Health, meetings to be held virtually.
- Trainings to be held virtually for people with disabilities and family members about the updated S-D Policy.



For more information, contact Jill Gerrie, Project Coordinator at 517 492-5029 or toll free at 800 292-7851, ext. 114, or via email at jill.gerrie@arcmi.org

PUBLIC POLICY HIGHLIGHTS...

Supported Decision-Making Group

In Michigan, according to the National Core Indicators report for 2018-2019, 80% of people with a disability were under some form of guardianship, compared with 54% nationally. Supported decision-making means giving people the help they need and want, to understand the situations and choices they face, so they can make their own decisions, without the need for a guardian. Because we believe all adults have the right to make decisions, to direct their own lives, to be treated with dignity, and to be respected as autonomous adults, the Arc Michigan, along with the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, facilitates a broad statewide coalition of organizations and individuals to provide advocacy, education, training, and resources around supported decision-making.

In 2020, we added webinars to our existing tools which include videos, a position statement, a brochure, and a resource manual. Through presentations and webinars we were able to reach 165 family members, 53 individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities, 101 transition staff, and 165 individuals working in various agencies. As this group moves forward into 2021 we will continue to promote the use of supported-decision making through trainings and presentations, and we will work on developing a robust tool-kit available to make supported decision-making easier to use at all stages of life. We will continue our advocacy work to limit the use of guardianship in our state, and to make sure that those individuals who do have a guardian appointed are treated with due process, including; having a finding of a need for guardianship on the court record, and to have regularly scheduled meetings with their guardian where they may express their needs and wants.

For more information on Supported Decision-Making you can check out our web page at <https://arcmi.org/resource-center/documents/> or at the Developmental Disability Councils web page https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-71550_2941_4868_4897_97701---,00.html. You may also contact Cathy McRae, the Project Coordinator, at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or cathy.mcrae@arcmi.org.

Direct Care Worker Wages

The Arc Michigan facilitates a coalition of a dozen state-wide disability rights organizations and disability services providers that focuses on increasing the wages of direct care workers who provide support to Michiganders receiving services via the state Community Mental Health system. The group influences policy makers to increase Medicaid funding, which is the source of direct care worker compensation within the public behavioral health care system. The coalition was successful in 2020 at securing extensions of the pandemic related "premium pay" wage increase of \$2 per hour for this group of workers. More information about this important issue and the work of the coalition can be found here: <https://arcmi.org/micarecrisis/>

Access to Health Care and Covid-19 Vaccines

The Arc Michigan joined with many other disability advocacy organizations and individual advocates in a successful effort to prevent people with disabilities from being discriminated against and subjected to health care rationing during the pandemic in 2020. We also advocated tirelessly and collaboratively for an upgrade in vaccine prioritization status for people with disabilities in the state of Michigan.