

OUR GREATEST STRENGTH LIES IN OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU.

To keep the energy, direction, and efforts going, we need your help.

As the Public Health Emergency concludes, The Arc Michigan continues to advocate to the Department of Health and Human Services and to the legislature, the vital necessity to increase direct care worker wages by \$4 dollars per hour.

We also continue to express the significance of keeping the mental health system *public* because integration is at the person level, not the administrative or financial level. Though the existing system is far from perfect, privatization would put profits ahead of the best interest of more than 320,000 Michiganders with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or mental health disabilities who rely on the critical supports and services currently provided. Privatization would mean less person-centeredness, less choice, and greatly reduced financial transparency.

The Arc Michigan is pushing for more General Fund dollars to be placed into our badly underfunded public mental health system. There simply is not enough funding in the current budget to provide adequate service to all people with disabilities in Michigan.



#GOALS

- INCREASE DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGES BY \$4/HR
- KEEP THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM PUBLIC
- INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM
- IMPROVE SYSTEM SERVICES
- MAINTAIN ACCESS TO AUTHENTIC PERSON-CENTERED PLANNING, SELF-DIRECTED SERVICES, INDEPENDENT FACILITATION AND CONFLICT-FREE CASE MANAGEMENT



In addition, State law requires Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSPs) to be the safety net for persons who have nowhere else to turn and those who have no insurance.

This leaves many non-Medicaid individuals with unmet needs who are not given proper consideration for eligibility, are placed on waiting lists, and left without services or assistance from anyone. An increase in general fund dollars and working to ensure sufficient funding for our public mental health system must be a priority.

While these efforts continue, The Arc Michigan will also advocate for service system improvements and 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.

Michigan's constitution specifies services and the public health of people with disabilities will "always be fostered and supported." The Arc will persist in reminding those making financial and systems policy of the constitutional commitment to support its most vulnerable citizens.



**PLEASE JOIN US IN STRENGTHENING OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY
ENGAGING WITH YOUR STATE AND FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO
ADVOCATE WITH AND ON BEHALF OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, AND BY
OFFERING YOUR GENEROUS FINANCIAL
SUPPORT TO THE ARC MICHIGAN.**

Together we can accomplish great things.

Donate today by visiting
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