

2024

Annual Report





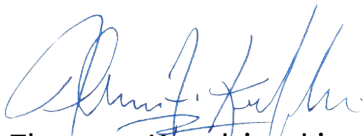
Dear Members & Friends of The Arc Michigan

As we reflect on another year, we are reminded of Michigan's constitutional commitment to foster and support the health and well-being of people with disabilities. Since 1951, The Arc Michigan has been determined to ensure this promise is honored through meaningful action. We remain steadfast in holding policymakers accountable—whether in the Governor's office, the legislature, or state and federal agencies—and will keep advocating for systemic change that creates more inclusive, independent lives for individuals with disabilities.


Our efforts will carry into the new year and beyond. The Arc Michigan is committed to advancing service system improvements and strengthening our public mental health system—one where every individual has access to authentic Person-Centered Planning, Self-Directed Services, Independent Facilitation, and Conflict-Free Case Management. We are also calling for increased investment through General Fund dollars, as the current budget does not provide adequate support for the needs of all people with disabilities in Michigan. At the same time, we are fighting to raise wages for Direct Care Workers and protect Medicaid at the federal level—both essential to ensuring the long-term stability and accessibility of services across the state.

Our work is strengthened by the collaboration of our 27 local chapters and the many advocacy organizations that share our vision. Together, we are breaking down barriers, improving access, and enhancing quality of life for individuals with disabilities and their families across Michigan. Your partnership is essential to maintaining this momentum, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support.

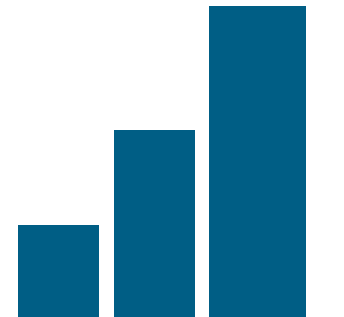
The progress we've made is possible because of you. Together, we will keep building a brighter future for individuals with disabilities in Michigan. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to this important cause.



Thomas Kendziorski,
President



Sherri Boyd
Executive Director



About Our Projects

The Arc Michigan is proud to support and coordinate a range of programs and projects that empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families across the state.

From early childhood through adulthood, **Michigan Alliance for Families (MAF)** offers information, education, and support to families navigating early intervention and special education services. Through **Leaders in Policy Advocacy (LIPA)**, we cultivate parent leaders and self-advocates ready to drive systems change. Our now-concluded **Foster Care Disability Navigation** project helped connect youth in foster care with vital special education advocacy. The **Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA)** program provides essential benefits counseling and support for people with disabilities seeking employment. The Arc Michigan **Pooled Amenities Trust** enables individuals with disabilities to protect their benefits while improving their quality of life. Our **Supported Decision-Making** initiative promotes alternatives to guardianship and empowers individuals to make their own choices with the help of trusted supporters. The **Person-Centered Planning Quality Improvement Project** helps ensure that people receiving services through the public mental health system experience meaningful choice and control in their lives. Finally, **Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS)** works to improve access to self-directed services by supporting local Community Mental Health agencies and state-level collaboration.

Together, these programs reflect our commitment to advocacy, inclusion, and self-determination for people with disabilities throughout Michigan.





MICHIGAN ALLIANCE FOR FAMILIES

Project Director, Kanika Littleton

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org> | (800)552-4821

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 responded to nearly 15,000 requests for individualized assistance, and helped 2,285 parents to review/prepare for IFSPs or IEPs and solve other special education related issues.

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. Additionally, MAF has two mentors providing statewide assistance to Arabic-speaking and Spanish-speaking families.

In 2024, MAF trainers, along with our state partners and RPMs offered 128 virtual and in person learning opportunities. Learning opportunities were held regionally and statewide. We had a total of 5,392 participants, of whom 2,707 were parents, 2,379 were professionals, 306 were students with a disability.

Topics include:

- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Behavior is Communication
- FAPE in the LRE
- Discipline Protections for Students with Disabilities
- Transition: Employment Expectations
- Building Blocks of Self-Advocacy
- And more!

MAF offers a full calendar of statewide virtual learning opportunities and regional small-group learning, including live and on demand webinars, videos, and courses. Families can watch 55+ different webinars and video presentations at home, at their own pace at www.youtube.com/michiganalliance.

Our recorded webinar presentations have been closed-captioned through a partnership with Michigan Department of Education's Center for Educational Networking (CEN). Accommodations are available for all our live learning opportunities.

For more **resources**, visit: www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org, or call 1.800.552.4821.

Para Español, 313.217.1060 | 248.963.0607, اللغة العربية

Email: info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

Monthly e-newsletter & event notification system

www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/Newsletter

MAF is funded by grants from the Michigan Department of Education - (1) Office of Special Education and (2) Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Achievement and Potential; and (3) the US Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs as our state's Parent Training and Information Center.



LEADERS IN POLICY ADVOCACY

Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/lipa/>

We continue to offer Leaders in Policy Advocacy, also known as LIPA, through Michigan Alliance for Families. LIPA is a comprehensive 6-month leadership development program designed for adults with developmental disabilities and parents of children with developmental disabilities. The program aims to cultivate empowered leaders within the disability rights movement.

Our participants commit to attending monthly, highly interactive weekend sessions for a series of six months where a variety of subject matter experts educate them on a series of topics including disability history, special education, assistive technology, self-determination, person-centered planning, access to housing, employment, benefits, and systems change. We provide overnight lodging and meals for the in-person training weekends as well as stipend gift cards to help reimburse them for their travel, respite, and childcare expenses.

This year we had 17 participants graduate from our 2024 cohort. Totalling 36 LIPA graduates since it returned in 2023 and now having over 130 LIPA graduates in total. This network of graduates continue to be connected to each other virtually to share disability advocacy opportunities and resources.

As we gear up for our 2025 program, we are thrilled to be able to continue this work of building future advocates and leaders for both the parent and self-advocacy movements.





FOSTER CARE DISABILITY NAVIGATION

Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

The Arc Michigan was able to extend our Foster Care Disability Navigation (FCDN) from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) into Fiscal Year 2024 as we had unspent funds from the previous year. We continued to partner with The Student Advocacy Center of Michigan where they maintained the program's statewide toll-free helpline to answer any questions, conduct intakes, and refer callers to their local contracted agency for direct services and supports. 28 local Arc chapters were contracted across the state dedicated to this special education advocacy work for youth experiencing foster care. The support provided by our local advocates included special education consultation and guidance, navigation support for resource and services, assistance with obtaining records, and representation during meetings.

Our year-end total for FCDN students who have received special education advocacy is 111 for FY2024, totaling 191 students since its inception. Sadly, we were unable to continue this program in FY25, as it was not included in the state budget.



MICHIGAN FAMILY VOICES

Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

<https://arcmi.org/michigan-family-voices/> & [Facebook](#)

Michigan Family Voices is a grassroots collaborative to mobilize family and individual leaders, and allies, effect positive change in health care policy, relevant to families of children and youth with special health care needs and/or disabilities.

Policies and Programs Impacted to Date:

- Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)
- Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)
- Continuation of federal support for Family-to-Family Health Information Centers (F2FHIC) which helps families of children and youth with special health needs navigate the complex health system.
- Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (MCHB)
- Medicaid (Medicaid Expansion; Medicaid Work Requirement Exemptions)
- Funding for Early On
- Ending Non-Emergency Restraint and Seclusion in Schools
- Funding for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Support for Family Caregiver
- Workforce Investment Opportunity Act



PARTNERS ADVANCING SELF-DETERMINATION

Project Coordinator, Jill Gerrie

<https://www.arcmi.org/projects/partners-advancing-self-determination/> + [Facebook](#)

Partners Advancing Self-Determination (PAS) is a grant project designed to improve self-directed services, also known as self-determination in Michigan. PAS is a collaborative effort with the Michigan Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Administration, Division of Adult Home and Community-Based Services and is funded by the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council.

Local PAS Teams

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

While PAS completed work with the Ottawa CMH PAS Team in 2023, we were selected and presented jointly about PAS and the Ottawa CMH Team's accomplishments at the national Applied Self-Determination Conference in the spring of 2024. Some members of the Ottawa CMH Team continue to be involved with PAS on the Budget Authority Workgroup. Also, during 2024, PAS held a meeting with former Local PAS CMH Teams to evaluate PAS and discuss the state of self-directed services in Michigan. The meeting was very successful, and the information received is guiding the project.

PAS will be working with a new local team from Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network in the beginning of 2025.

Budget Authority Workgroup

The Budget Authority Workgroup is made up of people who use self-directed services, family members, Financial Management Services, advocates, and former Community Mental Health employees. They are working to ensure budget authority or control is a reality for people using self-directed services in Michigan.

In 2025 the Budget Authority Workgroup will work to:

- Ensure the adoption of their recommendations to improve self-directed services by MDHHS
- Inform stakeholders of policy changes
- Problem-solve issues as they arise

Looking for New Local CMH Teams in 2025!

PAS is looking for CMHs that are interested in improving or refining their self-directed services. We provide free assistance to develop a team and facilitate work virtually.



(517)492-5029 or toll free at (800)292-7851 ext. 114



DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGE COALITION

Project Coordinator, Karah Ley

<https://www.dcw-michigan.org> & [Facebook](#)

The Arc Michigan continues to facilitate the Direct Care Worker Wage Coalition which consists of 14 state-wide disability advocacy organizations as well as participation from disability services providers. The Coalition focuses on increasing wages for the 50,000 direct care workers (DCWs) in Michigan who provide critical life preserving support to individuals with disabilities and mental health diagnoses in the behavioral health system.

This past year, the DCW Wage Coalition continued to educate policymakers about the importance of DCWs through various media campaigns, legislative coffee hours and events, committee hearings, and individual legislative advocacy.

Unfortunately, DCW wages in Michigan's behavioral health system are directly tied to Medicaid funding, which has not kept pace with the needs of our state. As a result, Michigan DCWs bring home very small paychecks, and often have no benefits. While direct care workers received a \$0.20 per hour wage increase in FY2025, in addition to maintaining the \$3.20 that was previously invested, the average starting wage of a DCW is still only \$16 per hour. Without meaningful investments, the DCW workforce crisis continues to exacerbate at the person and their family's expense. Due to these low wages, there is frequent staff turnover, caregiver burnout, and medical and mental health emergencies happening all over the state. This ongoing crisis is not only concerning but is also a health and safety risk to our state.

In addition to advocating for wages, the Coalition also has also begun recommending areas to improve administrative efficiencies within the system. Including the need for uniform contractual standards for behavioral health providers funded through the Prepaid Health Plan (PIHP)/Community Mental Health Services Program (CMHSP) system, which would ideally lead to a more efficient system.

Additional resources: Facebook

DCW Wage Coalition Position Statement can be found on our website at <https://www.dcw-michigan.org/our-position>

Administrative Efficiencies recommendations can be found on our website at <https://bit.ly/441p81c>





PERSON CENTERED PLANNING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Project Coordinator, Marie Eagle | Project Assistant, Heather Hallett

<https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi>

Launched in 2019, The Arc Michigan's Person-Centered Planning Quality Improvement Project partners with MDHHS's Behavioral and Physical Health and Aging Services Administration (BPHASA) and the Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy & Supports (BCCHPS) to evaluate and improve Person and Family-Centered Planning across Michigan's Behavioral Health Provider System.

Evaluation of Current Person-Centered Practices

As a partner in the MDHHS Site Review process, the project conducts interviews with individuals and families receiving services from PIHP and CMH entities, focusing on their experiences with Person and Family-Centered Planning, access to supports, and other quality measures. These interviews capture experiences with the CMHSP system, HCBS indicators, and understanding of available services. Data is used with MDHHS's BPHASA and BCCHPS to identify system improvement needs across Michigan's 10 PIHPs and to guide ongoing statewide support and training.

Development of Training and Technical Assistance

Guided by data from a statewide training needs assessment and Site Review interviews, the project created a Statewide Training Plan focused on Person and Family-Centered Planning, Self-Direction, Independent Facilitation, and behavioral health system navigation. This plan drives a free monthly webinar series, held via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month from 3-4pm. Recordings are available on The Arc Michigan's website: <https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/webinars/>

Self-Direction Help Desk

The Self-Direction (SD) Help Desk was developed to provide a central location for people to provide feedback and request technical assistance on self-direction across Michigan. The Help Desk also features a FAQ on SD that can be used as a resource for individuals, families, advocates, and those working in the system. The SD Help Desk and SD FAQ can be found at: <https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/pcpqisdhelpdesk/>

Self-Determination Conference

The project continues to collaborate with MDHHS to plan Michigan's 6th Annual Self-Determination Conference, taking place May 15-16 at the Radisson in Kalamazoo. Conference details and PCP Quality Improvement Project resources are available at <https://arcmi.org/projects/pcpqi/>





SUPPORTED DECISION-MAKING

Project Coordinator, Jill Gerrie | <https://bit.ly/4k83tJw>

Supported decision-making means giving people the help and support they want and need so they can make their own decisions and avoid guardianship. The Arc Michigan and the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council 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.

Together we facilitate a broad statewide coalition of organizations and individuals to provide advocacy, education, training, and resources around supported decision-making. The Supported Decision-Making Toolkit

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability/supported-decision-making/sdm-toolkit> details supports available for families throughout the lifespan.

We will continue to promote the use of supported decision-making through training and presentations and will record personal stories about guardianship and the transition to supported decision-making. The stories will be used in educational and advocacy efforts, and we anticipate supported decision-making legislation will be introduced during 2025.

The Supported Decision-Making Coalition, the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council, and the Center for Urban Studies at Wayne State University are compiling data received from court and Community Mental Health records. A report with our findings should be available in 2025, which will help the Coalition target advocacy and educational efforts.

The Youth Ambassadors, ranging in age from 16 to 23, completed their projects for the Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice. The Youth Ambassadors gave their “showcase” presentations which can be found at <https://youth-voice.org/michigan-state-team/>. While their projects are completed, some of the Youth Ambassadors have continued with the Center for Youth Voice, Youth Choice mentoring new state team members from across the country.

For more information on Supported Decision- Making, visit: <https://arcmi.org/resource-center/documents/>

or the Developmental Disability Council’s web page at: <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/mentalhealth/developmentaldisability>





POOLED AMENITIES TRUST

Project Coordinator, Cathy McRae

<https://arcmi.org/projects/the-arc-michigan-pooled-amenities-trust/>

The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust opened in 2015. 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. In 2023 the Pooled Trust enabled people to pay for necessities like dental work not covered by Medicaid, automobile insurance, and clothing. But we were also able to help people have fun with the purchase things like computers, gaming systems, and vacations.

As of December 31, 2024, The Arc Michigan Pooled Amenities Trust held assets totaling **\$2,812,143 with 98 sub-account holders and had paid over \$44,500 to The Arc Michigan** for the administration of the Trust over the last year.

800.292.7851 ext. 119 or PooledTrust@arcmi.org



WORK INCENTIVES, PLANNING AND ASSISTANCE

Project Coordinator, Cathy McRae | <https://arcmi.org/miwipa/>

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

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

On June 30, 2024 The Arc Michigan concluded the third year of a five year WIPA project, granted by the Social Security Administration and serving **21 counties**. Between January 1, and December 31, 2024, over **300 individuals** had been referred to our WIPA project, with 29% receiving an in-depth Benefits Summary and Analysis, 42% receiving personal assistance toward achieving their employment and financial goals, and many more receiving needed information and referrals.

<https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

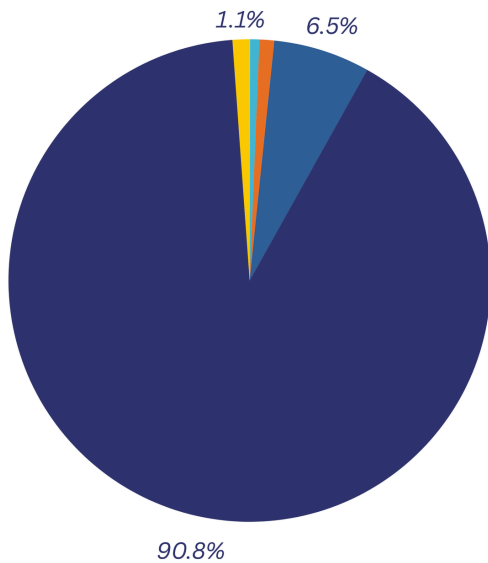
or contact us at 800.292.7851 ext. 119 or cathy.mcrae@arcmi.org

Financial Summary



REVENUES

\$5,617,425



Grants

\$5,097,880

Other Operational

\$363,586

Membership

\$55,450

Development

\$34,629

United Way

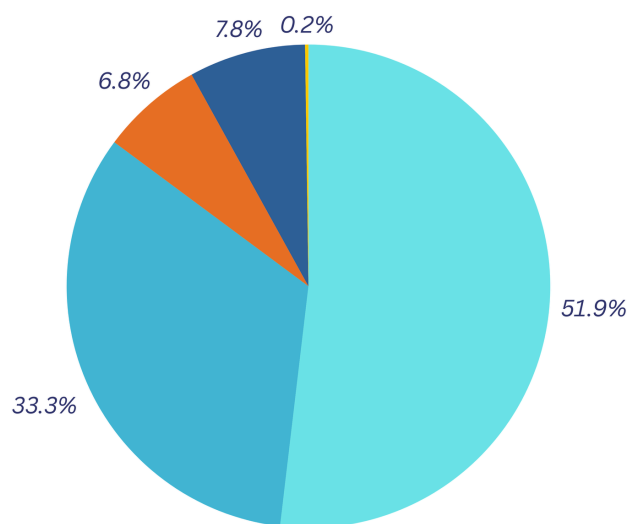
\$1,861

Interest

\$64,019

EXPENSES

\$5,453,373



Salaries/Benefits

\$2,829,039

Contracted Services

\$1,815,164

Other Program Expenses

\$371,308

Office Expense/Overhead

\$34,629

Payment to Arc US

\$1,861



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



Communications Reach



Mailchimp

Total sends
112,627

Open rate
24.4%

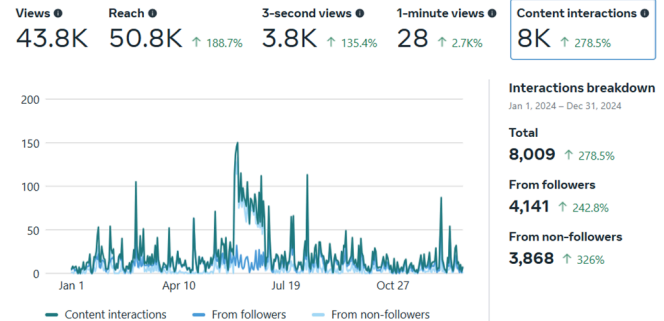
Click rate
4.1%

Unsubscribe rate
0.07%



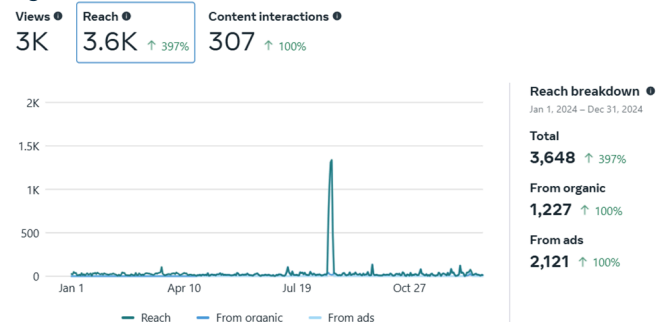
Facebook www.facebook.com/TheArcMichigan

- Followers: **4,100** (Our largest audience base, increased from 3,400 in 2023)
- Reach: **50,800** total in 2024 (124.4% increase from 2023)
- Content Interaction: **8,000** interactions (223.4% increase compared to 2023)
- Views: **34,000** views on content
- Engagement Leader:** Facebook remains our highest-performing platform, showcasing its effectiveness in connecting with our audience and driving engagement.



Instagram www.instagram.com/thearcMichigan

The Arc Michigan's Instagram account @thearcMichigan grew to **698** followers in 2024, and reached **3.6K** accounts (an increase of 397% from 2023) with **387** posts, 11 stories and 307 content interactions (an increase of 100%).



LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/company/the-arc-michigan

Our 2nd year on LinkedIn has been a success! This platform is showcasing steady growth in followers and interaction.

- Impressions: **9,021** (compared to 3,434 in 2023)
- Engagement: **441** reactions, 6 comments, 13 reposts
- Page Views: 309 total page views by 152 unique visitors
- Followers: **347** total followers, with 118 new followers gained in the past year.
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-arc-michigan/>



X (formerly Twitter) <https://x.com/arcMichigan>

This platform has eliminated free analytics tracking. The only recoverable information is that @arcMichigan has **706** followers in 2024 (up from 683 in 2023)



Bluesky Coming in 2025, We've Joined Bluesky! Follow us [@thearcMichigan.bsky.social](https://thearcMichigan.bsky.social)

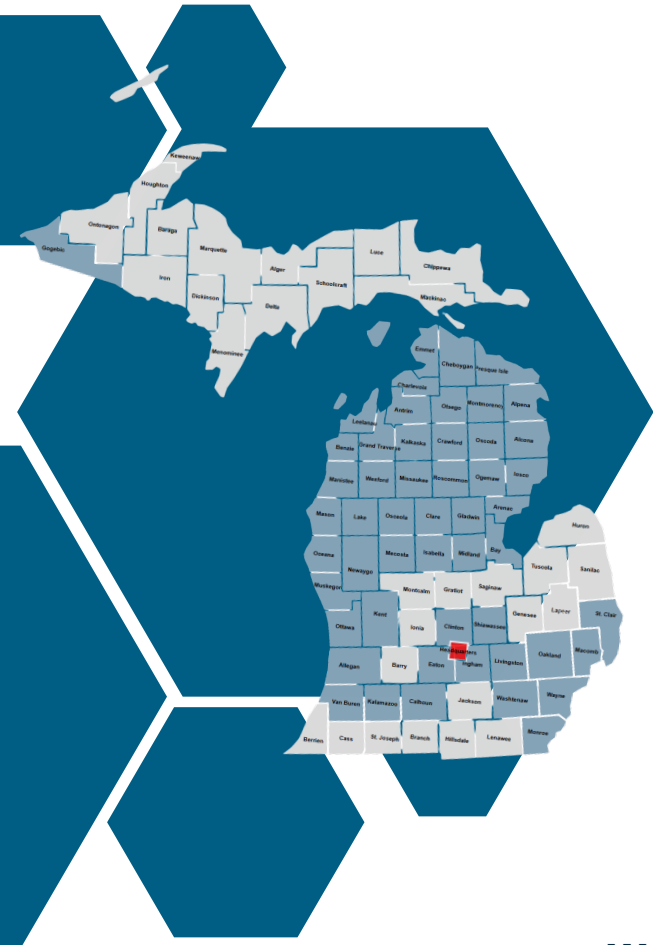


Linktr.ee

Like and follow **The Arc Michigan** across all our social media channels. See everything in one place, at <https://linktr.ee/arcMichigan>

Local Chapters

www.arcmi.org/find-your-local-chapter



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 Arc of Mid-Michigan
The Mon-Arc of Monroe, Inc.
The Arc Lakeshore
The Arc/Newaygo County
The Arc of Northern Michigan
The Arc of Oakland County, Inc
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

Committees & Boards



Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

- MDDC Public Policy Workgroup
- MDDC Quarterly Meetings
- MDHHS Quarterly Stakeholder Group
- MDHHS Administrative Efficiency Workgroup
- MDHHS Child & Family Issues Committee
- MDDC CoP on Charting the Life Course Leadership Team



Michigan Department of Education

- Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent Leadership in State Government Advisory Board
- Special Education Advisory Committee
- MI Interagency Transition Team
- OPTIMISE Task Force and Core Planning Team, Behavior Action Team, Special Education Administrators Credentialing Action Team, Special Educator Credentialing Action Team
- START Sexuality Community of Practice
- Education and Foster Care Workgroup



Board and Advocacy Groups

- National Core Indicators Workgroup
- Statewide Direct Care Workforce Advisory Committee
- Michigan Parent, Advocate, and Attorney Coalition
- Special Education Coalition
- Conflict Free Access and Planning Workgroup
- 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 Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Coalition
- Deaf/Blind Central Advisory Committee
- Center for Parent Information and Resources-Parent Center Equity Workgroup
- Michigan Elder Abuse Task Force
- Michigan Council for Rehabilitation Services (MCRS)
- Care Can't Wait- Michigan
- Caring Across Generations- National

The Arc Michigan facilitates:

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





The **Arc Michigan** Board

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Katherine Mills, Kalamazoo
Robert Steinkamp, Holt
Robert White, Clarkston

*Your time, expertise, and heart for this work
make a lasting difference - Thank you for serving.*





Contact Us!



800-292-7851



info@arcmi.org



www.arcmi.org



<https://linktr.ee/arcmichigan>

