

Dear <<Salutation>>,

Thank you so much for your past support of The Arc in 2020. We are extremely thankful for friends and supporters like you.

The Arc continues to lead the advocacy work in our nation's capital on issues affecting the lives of people with IDD. Right now, Congress is actively working on historic investments and structural changes to our country's care infrastructure to address the needs of people with disabilities, deal with the crisis in the direct care workforce, and improve paid leave so family caregivers can better balance their careers with caring for a loved one. This means that we have the opportunity to make home and community-based services (HCBS)—and the improved quality of life they provide—available for more people than ever before.

With your continued support, we can make these projected changes a reality.

With Medicaid, as the main source of funding for HCBS, under constant threat of reduction, it is crucial that we continue our direct advocacy to Congress to maintain and increase allocations for these vital services and the people behind them.

The Arc has their attention, and our power is propelling action - just as it has successfully in the past. Will you [donate to support our advocacy efforts](#)? With your renewed support, we can continue to enact real and lasting change.

The Arc's achievements point to the strength of our advocacy and the need to maintain strong forward motion in this vital work of supporting the health, well-being, and independence of people with disabilities. Historically and to the present day, we have made crucial strides in improving and supporting the lives of members of the IDD community in key areas:

- Quality of life:
 - Instrumental in the closure of deplorable, inhumane state institutions.
 - Continue to move people out of institutions to live in community-based group homes or in their own homes and with their families.
- Education:
 - Brought the first lawsuits to force public schools to accept children with disabilities.
 - Continue to help parents navigate a still woefully inadequate special education system so students get the help they are entitled to and need to succeed in school.
- Employment:
 - Championed the rights of people with IDD to be free from discrimination in employment and to receive basic subsistence income payments.
 - Guide teens and adults in finding and keeping jobs, and work with employers to help them see the business advantages of hiring people with disabilities.
- Healthcare:
 - Guaranteed that coverage can't be denied to people with disabilities with passage of the Affordable Care Act, and successfully advocated for extension of long-term

services under Medicaid to support people with IDD to live, work and participate in their communities.

After decades of relentless work, we are closer to realizing our vision than ever before. But as it has been in the past, Medicaid remains vulnerable to budget cuts, and strongly needed increases and allocations specifically in the HCBS arena are far from guaranteed.

As Congress continues to deliberate over current and future funding for Medicaid and the type of significant financial boost the IDD community needs for its HCBS providers, The Arc is ready to meet this opportunity with the full force of our advocacy. Will you be a part of this moment with us? Together, we have succeeded in significantly improving opportunities and quality of life for members of the IDD community and their families. But much more progress and action are needed.

We believe in a future where people with disabilities have the support systems they need to feel valued and included, and to independently participate in their communities in ways that are meaningful to them. The lack of appreciation for the human dignity of people with IDD, and lack of understanding for the day-to-day challenges that they and their family members face, are impeding progress and limiting opportunities for people with IDD. Increasing Congressional funding and allocating resources and support for HCSB represents a significant step in the right direction.

It's time to change the narrative. Will you remain our partners as we continue our advocacy work toward improving the lives of people with IDD and those who provide vital support for them?

Your generous gift of <<Ask 2>>, <<Ask 3>>, or even <<Ask 4>> will help us break down barriers so people with IDD can build the life THEY want. It is because of the generosity of supporters like you that make it possible for The Arc to continue to advocate for the dignity and well-being of people with IDD and their families and of those who devote so much time and effort on their behalf. We thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

{SIGNATURE}

[Name withheld for Journo Portfolio purposes]
Chief Executive Officer, The Arc

P.S. Your tax-deductible donation makes it possible to develop solutions and secure opportunities for people with I/DD across their lifetime by funding our programs and initiatives. Thank you for empowering people to live the lives they want!