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# A Year in Review

## **2024-2025**



# Who We Are

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**The Arc of Pennsylvania (The Arc of PA)** promotes the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.







**DIAMONDS ARE  
FOREVER.  
SO IS OUR IMPACT.**



**Join us as we commemorate our  
75th anniversary and look to the  
bright future ahead.**

On November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 150 family, friends and special guests of The Arc of PA gathered at the West Shore County Club to celebrate 75 years of making an impact in the lives of people with IDD. The theme for the evening:

**Diamonds are forever.  
So is our impact.**

Thanks to the hard work of staff and support from family and friends, we will continue to shine for another 75 years and beyond.





75 Years of  
Advocacy

Covering 50  
Counties in PA



# State Advocacy

Ending the Waiting List

Wages for Direct Support Professionals (DSPs)

Adequate Early Intervention Funding

Adequate Special Education Funding

Settings for Children with Complex Care Needs



# Federal Advocacy



Saving Medicaid

Saving Section 504

Saving IDEA and Special Education

# Coalition Advocacy

<b>Disability Budget Coalition</b>	<b>PA Coalition for Oral Health</b>
<b>Disability Health Action Network</b>	<b>PA Statewide Independent Living Council</b>
<b>Early Intervention Coalition</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition</b>
<b>EI Workgroup with RCPA</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Disability History Collaborative</b>
<b>Family Care Act Coalition</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Health Access Network</b>
<b>Health Equity Action Team</b>	<b>Pennsylvania Policy Center</b>
<b>ID/A Coalition</b>	<b>Pennsylvania School Works</b>
<b>Information Sharing and Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Policy Information Exchange</b>
<b>Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee</b>	<b>Rosemary Collaboratory</b>
<b>Organ Donation Advisory Committee</b>	<b>State Health Improvement Plan Goal Teams</b>
<b>Oral Health Progress and Equity Network</b>	<b>State Task Force</b>



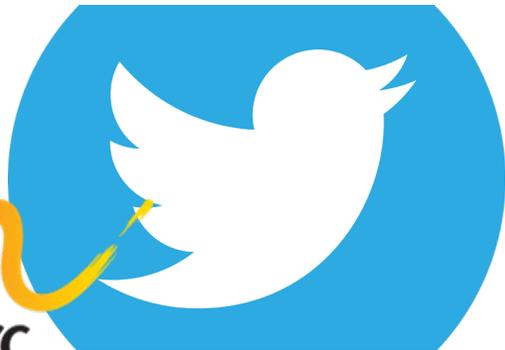
# Action Alerts

Our action alerts about Medicaid cuts got **1,282 people** to speak up, leading to over **4,100 messages sent to U.S. lawmakers** from Pennsylvania. We used both broad and targeted outreach to get more people involved.

**This is more than twice as many responses as our best past alert.**



# The Arc Informs



**The Arc.**  
Pennsylvania

## The Arc of PA followers:

Facebook: 8,608	(up 31%)
Instagram: 1,353	(up 16%)
X: 1,320	(down 2%)
LinkedIn: 458	(new)
Bluesky: 750	(new)

## Include Me followers:

Facebook: 1,224	(up 10%)
Instagram: 522	(up 13%)
X: 165	(down 9%)
TikTok: 109	(up 51%)

# Include Me's TikTok

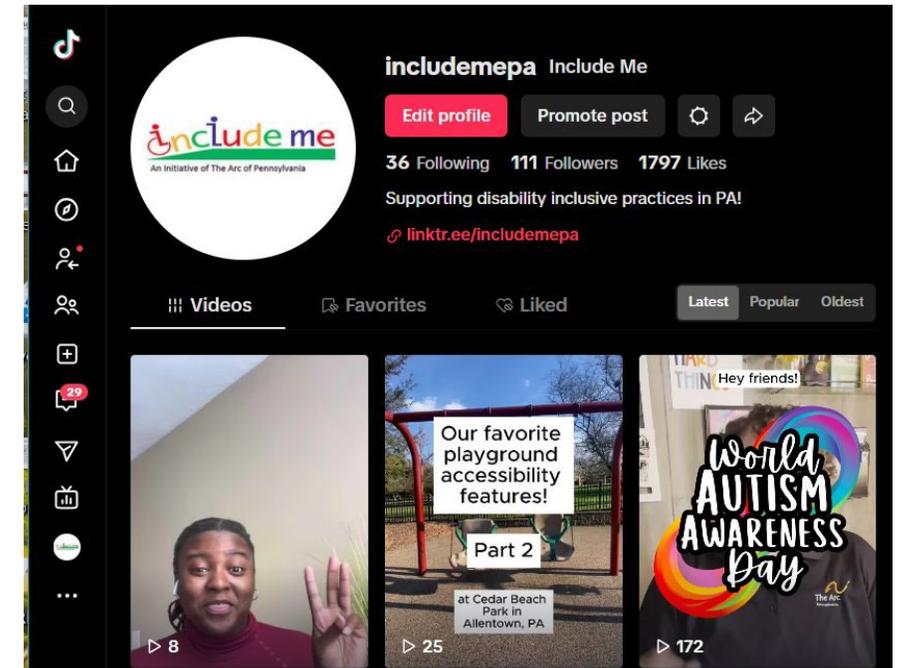


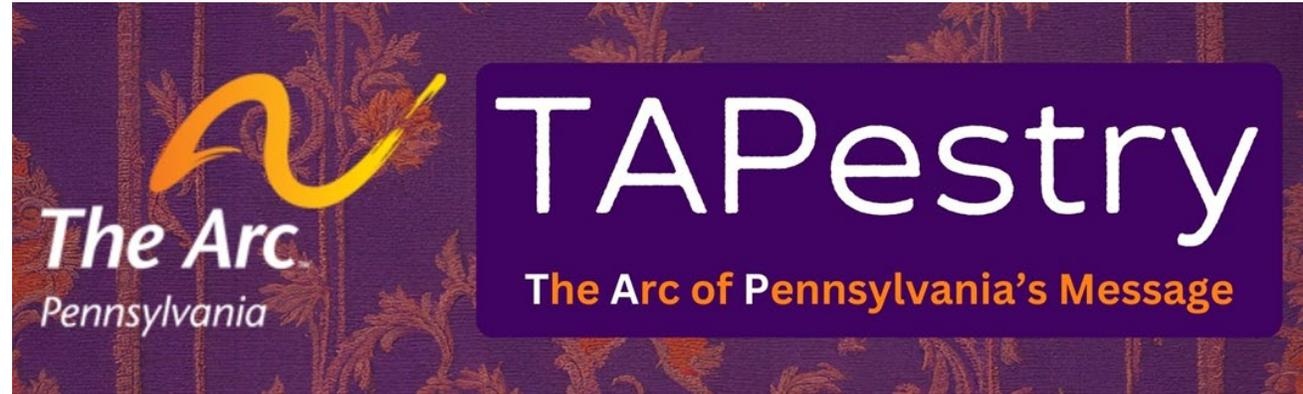
IM's TikTok account is **growing** steadily!

We're sharing videos that show **inclusive communities, give helpful tips for school staff and families, and spread awareness** about accepting people with disabilities.

We plan to group these videos into playlists and add them to our YouTube channels.

We also share the videos on Facebook, Instagram, and other social media to keep the conversation going about disability awareness, inclusion, and the work of The Arc of PA.





Our monthly electronic newsletter, **TAPestry**, has grown a lot and now has nearly **2,000 subscribers**.

In April 2025, we started sending it out **twice a month** because it had become a very useful source of information. This change helps The Arc of PA share more updates about our work, our local chapters, our national organization, and important news about policies, topics, and events that affect people with IDD.

Programs  
that Make a  
Difference



Health Initiatives

Include Me School Age

ADEPT

ACRE Training

# Health Initiatives

## The Arc of Pennsylvania Initiative to Address COVID-19 Health Disparities among People with Disabilities

- **Acknowledged by the CDC as a Novel & Emerging Practice and added to their website**
- **Held 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Disability Health Action Summit with over 120 attendees and 16 Vendors**
- **Presented at the AADMD One Voice Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ**
- **Presented to the PA Department of Health's Health Equity Advisory Team**





**DHAN is a statewide collaborative** committed to advancing the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

- Promoting equitable access to quality health care
- Fostering effective communication between stakeholders
- Enhancing the overall health outcomes for people with disabilities

6 Advisory Committee Meetings	In-person ½ day Action Plan Meeting	Developed Action Plan for 2026
Website Accessibility Review	Emergency Preparedness Literature Review	Stakeholder Listening Sessions
Poll of County Emergency Preparedness Coordinators	Community Health & Health Needs Assessments Research	42 Member Advisory Committee
	Website Creation as Hub for Statewide Disability Health Resources	



# "Dental for All"

The Arc of PA coordinated **2 Dental Office Open Houses** to help people with IDD feel comfortable with the dental office, tools, and procedures.

The project also **educated local oral health professionals** about the best ways to care for people with IDD.



**DENTAL OFFICE OPEN HOUSE**  
for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities

Tuesday  
September 10, 2024  
6:00-8:00 PM

Meadville Dental Center  
640 Alden St  
Meadville, PA 16335



The event is coordinated by The Arc of Pennsylvania

The Dental Office Open House is part of an initiative to promote healthy lifestyles for individuals with intellectual disabilities (IDD). This event allows individuals with IDD to familiarize themselves with a dental office setting, ask questions and get to know a local dentist to help reduce the anxiety and fear associated with visiting the dentist.

Families, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, staff and providers are welcome to attend. Giveaways and tips for promoting dental wellness will also be available for those in attendance.

TO REGISTER, VISIT  
[WWW.THEARCPA.ORG](http://WWW.THEARCPA.ORG)



**The Arc.**  
Crawford County

**The Arc.**  
Pennsylvania

THE ARC OF PENNSYLVANIA, 1007 MUMMA RD, LEMOYNE, PA, 17043 (717) 234-2621



**DISCOVER YOUR BEST SMILE:  
JOIN OUR OPEN HOUSE**

📅 Thursday, September 12 🕒 4 pm - 6 pm

In partnership with Penn Dental Medicine and The Arc, Woods Healthcare is pleased to host a dental office Open House on Thursday, September 12.

This event is part of an initiative to promote healthy lifestyles for individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism (ID/A), and mental health challenges. It provides an opportunity for individuals with IDD and their families to become familiar with the dental office environment at Woods, engage with the dental staff, ask questions, and reduce anxiety and fear associated with dental visits. Families, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, staff, and providers are welcome to attend. Attendees will also receive giveaways and valuable tips for promoting dental wellness. Remarks will begin promptly at 4 pm followed by light refreshments and activities.



**REGISTER TODAY! [CLICK HERE](#)**

# Include Me School Age

## Building Inclusion Capacity

- Served 14 school districts
- Trained 4,393 school staff through Professional Development
- Attended 59 outreach and informational events
- Expanded Pre-Ets programming from 1 to 5 separate offerings across PA
- Developed Webinar Transition Series to deliver information to families in recorded and live sessions on social media
- Internally reviewed and updated all Professional Development offerings for school teams



**include me**  
An Initiative of The Arc of Pennsylvania

**What is Include Me?**  
The mission of The Arc of PA's Include Me Program is to develop, support, and enhance disability inclusive practices across Pennsylvania. Include Me Program Specialists partner with school districts to create a comprehensive plan that meets the unique needs of the district, teachers, and families.

- Student Team Consultation**  
We visit classrooms and offer resources, strategies, onsite mentoring and other supports as identified by the student's IEP team.
- School-Wide General Support**  
We provide general consulting to increase accessibility for school- or district-wide events, activities, and more.
- Staff and Family Training**  
We deliver professional development opportunities for school personnel and families on a wide range of topics.
- Virtual Student Programs**  
We facilitate a variety of virtual student-facing programs in the afternoon and evening through engaging, age-appropriate activities for students across the state.
- On-Site Technical Assistance**  
We assist in the implementation of a variety of assistive technology solutions for students, including device training and lending.
- Inclusive District Projects**  
We collaborate with school districts to create building projects such as sensory rooms, play ground communication boards, and more.

Funding for the Include Me Program comes from PA Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education. Include Me support is provided at no cost to schools and school districts.

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**The Arc Pennsylvania**

Save the Date  
**Includi-Con 2025**

June 24-26, 2025

\*Registration will open in April 2025 on our website, [thearcpa.org](http://thearcpa.org)

**include me**  
An Initiative of The Arc of Pennsylvania



### TOOLKIT FOR INCLUSION: SPECIALS & ELECTIVES

#### About This Toolkit:

Include Me PA works in partnership with districts across PA to build capacity for inclusive education. Specials teachers/Specialists play a vital role in reinforcing school culture. Arts classes and Specials are sometimes seen as a "place to start" for inclusion in a general education setting, and perhaps that's because movement, creativity, flexibility and tactile learning are built in to the fabric of these classrooms and curricula! At Include Me, **we believe** in meaningful inclusion from the first bell-- our program specialists offer resources to build inclusive capacity in all general education classes. **This toolkit** is designed to be a quick reference to increase the inclusive capacity of Art, Music, Phys Ed, Library and Technology/Computer classrooms.

#### For More Resources:

Include Me offers supports including professional development (virtual, in person, and through e-learning modules) for teachers, paraprofessionals and staff throughout our partnering districts. Contact your Include Me program specialist for a list of available PD's this school year.

- [thearcpa.org](http://thearcpa.org)
- Office 717-234-2621
- <https://www.facebook.com/IncludeMePA/>





# ADEPT



**Making Employment Work**  
**UPCOMING DATES**

Earn a Basic ACRE Certificate

Below is our schedule for upcoming virtual training for those providing Supported Employment; Community Participation; or transition services for high school students.

August 17-19  
September 12-14  
October 12-14  
November 14-16  
December 12-14

LEARN MORE:  
[thearcpa.org/training](http://thearcpa.org/training)



**NEW**  
**Customized Employment Certification Course**

- Get certification in:
  - Discovery
  - Customized Job Development
  - Systematic Instruction
  - All in one course!
- New price!
  - \$650 vs \$3600

Register Now  
[thearcpa.org/training/](http://thearcpa.org/training/)

**The Arc of PA's Making Employment Work**  
**ACRE Basic Certification Training**



Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators

Our **ADEPT (Arc Discovery Employment Transition) Program** offers training for service providers in Supported Employment, Discovery, and Job Development. This includes **ACRE certification** and training in **Customized Employment**—a way of helping people find jobs that match their skills, interests, and strengths with what a business needs.

We also provide this training directly to individuals through funding from the **Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)** and the **Bureau of Special Education (BSE)**.

## This year's highlights:

- **599 people** received ACRE training (up from 341 last year)
- **12 individuals** attended Customized Employment training or worked toward certification (4 completed it)
- **Recertified as an OVR Supported Employment vendor**
- **Updated our ACRE curriculum** to meet new standards set by the ACRE board



  
**The Arc.**  
Pennsylvania





The Arc.  
Pennsylvania

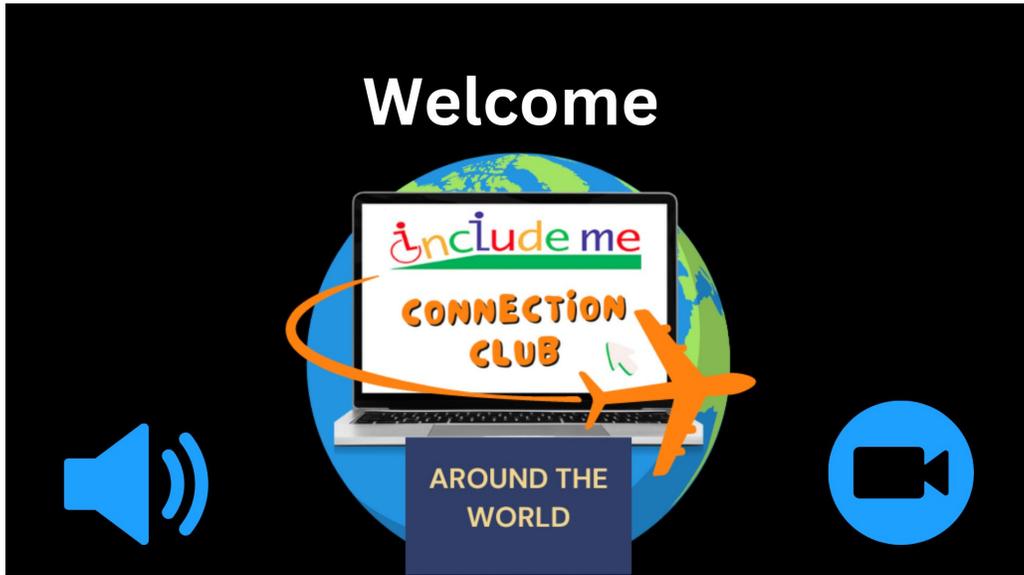
2024-2025

18 Books

4 Age Groups

We held **12 virtual book study sessions** and **6 in-person sessions**, including one with an entire 2nd grade level.

The Arc of PA is planning to support **inclusion during the Extended School Year (ESY)** at **8 elementary schools** in the **School District of Philadelphia**.



# Around the World Series

Sept 2024 - May 2025

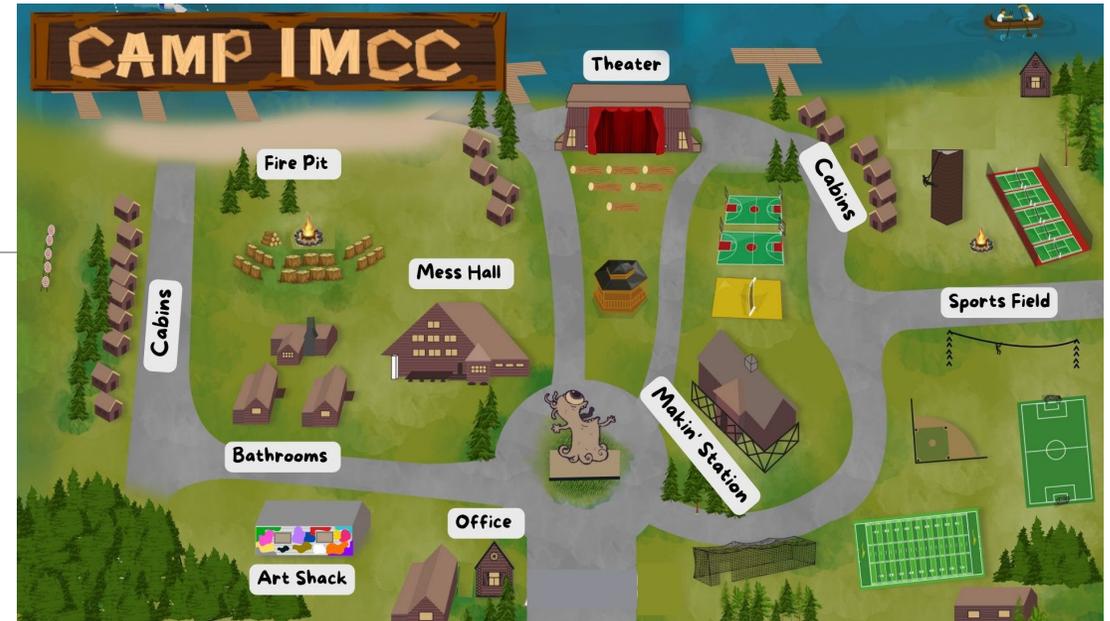
Featured 2x/month meetings themed around:

- 7 Continents
- Worldly Winter Celebrations
- Oceans

## Camp IMCC Returns!

Year 3

July 1st- August 12th





**Greetings from Asia**  
September 17 & 24

**Greetings from Africa**  
October 22 & 29

**Greetings from Antarctica**  
November 12 & 19

**Winter Celebrations**  
December 17

2025

**Greetings from South America**  
January 21 & 28

**Greetings from Europe**  
February 18 & 25

**Greetings from Australia**  
March 25 & 4/1

**Greetings from North America**  
April 22 & 29

**Upcoming:**  
May 20 & 27

**CAMP IMCC**  
**2025**  
Summer Program:  
June-August

# Includi-Con 2025



Sally Bailey

Using Drama to Rehearse and Retain Executive Functions in the Inclusive Classroom



Kelli Suding

*Session 1 - Slinging Spaghetti: Access for Every Learner*  
*Session 2 - No Reader Left Behind: How to Create Accessible Content*



Dr. Kerry Magro

Teaching the Way Our Students Learn: Curriculum Practices and Inclusive Classrooms

## Virtual 3-Day Conference

June 24th – June 26th  
8:30am - 12:30pm

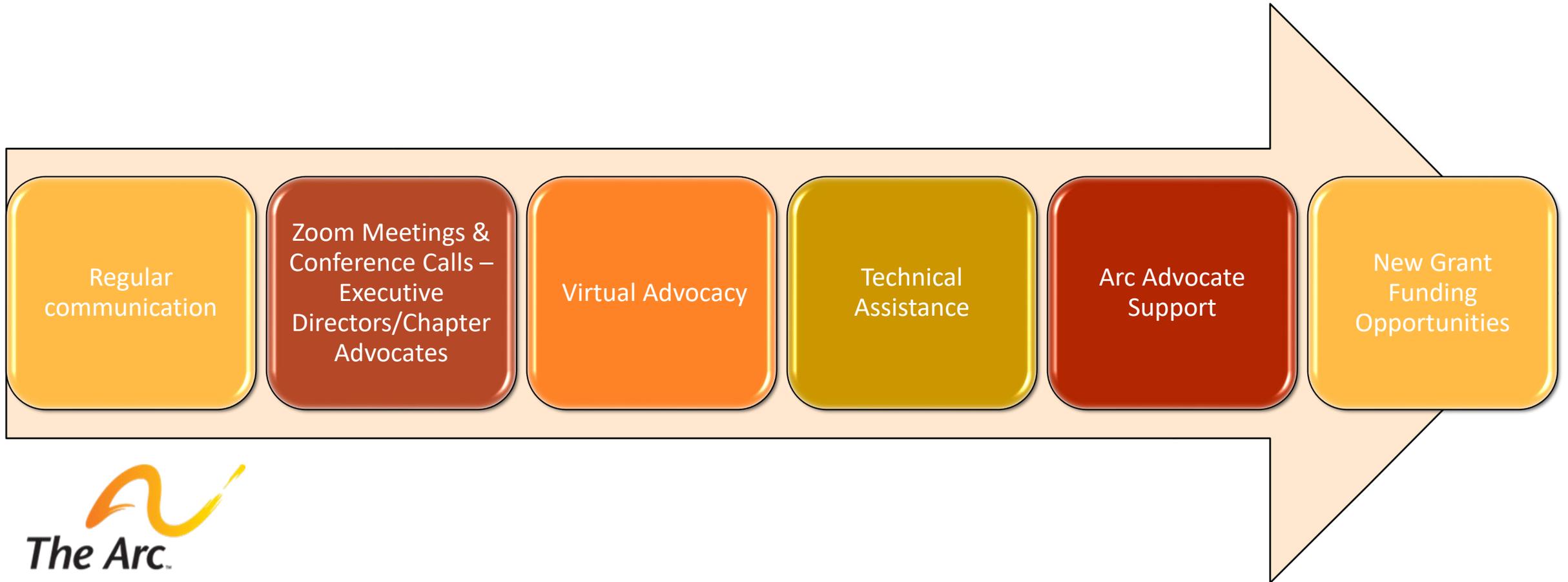
**Includi-Con** aims to promote, elevate, and educate about the importance of inclusive practices in education. This year's theme is:

### **Alternate Angles: Innovative Inclusion for Students with Disabilities**

Attendees will hear from experts in the field of disability to gain tips, tools, and resources to incorporate inclusion in schools and their everyday lives.

The conference will be attended by educators and staff as well as interested family members and individuals with lived experience.

# Support to Local Chapters



# *Wings for Autism with The Arc of Philadelphia*



**The Arc.**  
Pennsylvania

# The Arc of PA Partners

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Bureau of Early  
Intervention  
Services

Childcare  
Information  
Services

Early Intervention  
Technical  
Assistance

Intermediate  
Units and Local  
School Districts

State and Local  
Intermediate  
Units

Department of  
Human Services

PA Choice

PA Schools Work

Disability  
Coalitions

Disability  
Transportation  
Alliance

The Arc of United  
States

Local Arc  
Chapters

PA DD Council

PA Department of  
Health

PA Department of  
Education

Office of  
Vocational  
Rehabilitation

Disability Rights  
of PA

Provider  
Organizations

# Thank You to The Arc of PA's...

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Board of Directors

Chapter Executives and Presidents

State Chapter Staff

Countless Volunteers



**The Arc**<sup>TM</sup>  
Pennsylvania

For people with intellectual  
and developmental disabilities

**Achieve with us.**

[www.thearcpa.org](http://www.thearcpa.org)



**Thank you!**

