



# A Year in Review

## 2025-2026



# 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.



# Advocacy

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# State Advocacy



Ending the Waiting List

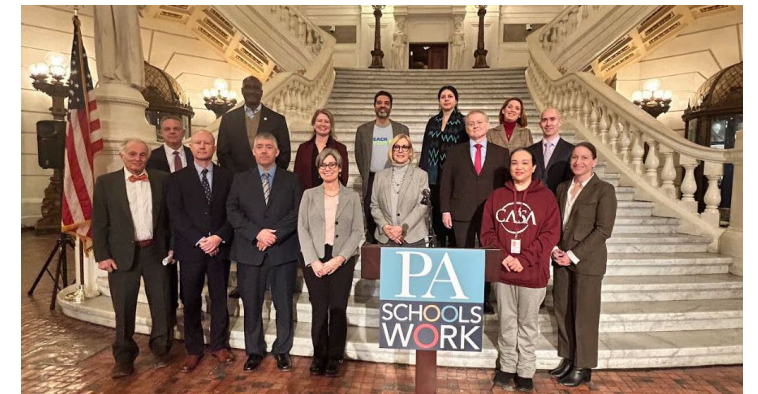
Investing in the Multi-Year Growth Strategy

Direct Support Professional Wages

Inclusive and Adequately Funded Special Education

Adequately Funded Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers

Expand the Home and Community-Based Services Augmentation Fund



# Federal Advocacy



Fully Fund Developmental Disability Programs

Fully Fund Individuals with Disabilities Education Action (IDEA)

End Harmful Restraint and Seclusion Practices in Schools

Link Federal Voucher Programs to IDEA Protections

Ensure Higher Education is Accessible

Restore Medicaid Funding

Make Home and Community-Based Services Mandatory Under Medicaid



# Coalition Advocacy



|                                                   |                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Disability AI Learning Community</b>           | <b>Oral Health Progress and Equity Network</b>       |
| <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 School Works</b>                     |
| <b>ID/A Coalition</b>                             | <b>Policy Information Exchange</b>                   |
| <b>Information Sharing and Advisory Committee</b> | <b>Rosemary Collaboratory</b>                        |
| <b>Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee</b> | <b>State Health Improvement Plan Goal Teams</b>      |
| <b>Organ Donation Advisory Committee</b>          | <b>State Task Force</b>                              |

# Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities



We joined advocacy efforts for **3 executive orders** and were in attendance as Governor Josh Shapiro signed them:

- Create the *Advisory Commission on People with Disabilities*
- Direct state agencies to protect the rights and privacy of people with disabilities and go above and beyond to ensure that services are accessible
- Strengthen the Developmental Disabilities Council

**Sherri Landis, CEO, was honored to deliver remarks at the signing and to receive one of the pens used by the Governor to sign the orders.**



# Communications

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# Social Media

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## The Arc of PA Followers

**Facebook:** 9,155 (up 10%)

**Instagram:** 1,495 (up 20%)

**X:** 1,324 (0%)

**LinkedIn:** 359 (up 60%)

## Include Me Followers

**Facebook:** 1,315 (up 10%)

**Instagram:** 546 (up 20%)

**TikTok:** 177 (up 97%)

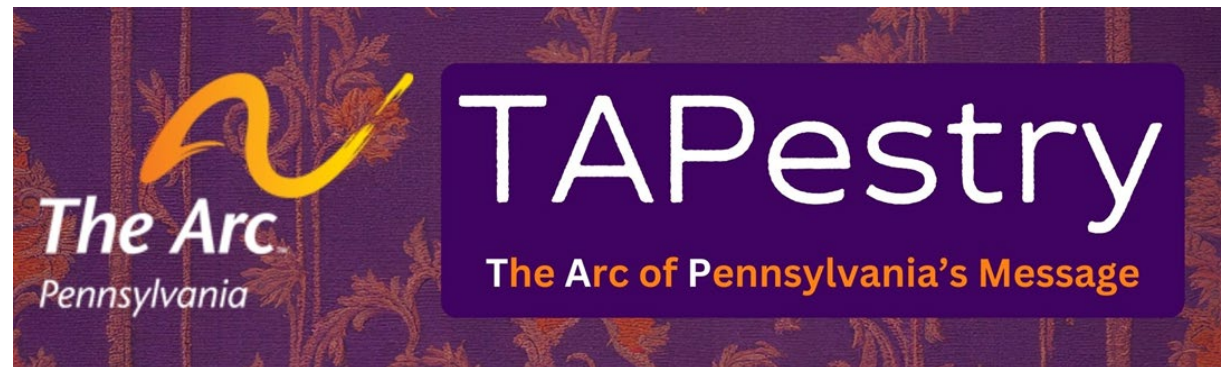
**We are also building the Include Me YouTube account.** We are starting the year with 19 followers, so we have lots of room for growth.

# TAPestry

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Our electronic newsletter, **TAPestry**, is distributed twice per month, helping The Arc of PA share updates about our work, our local chapters, our national organization, and important news about policies, topics, and events that affect people with IDD, their support providers, and their families.



Programs  
that Make a  
Difference

Health Initiatives

Include Me School Age

ADEPT & ACRE Training

# Health Initiatives

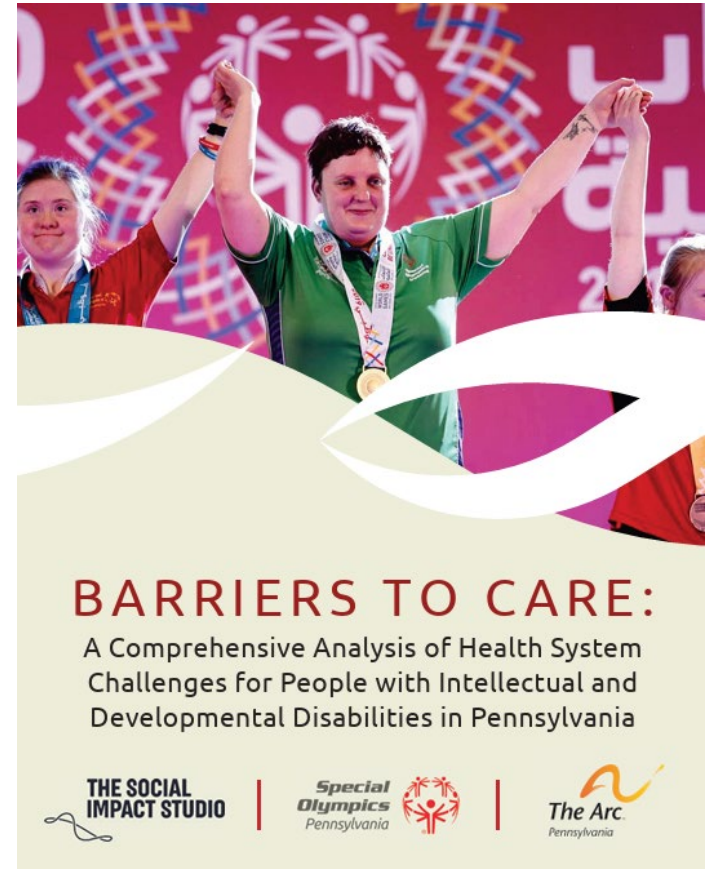
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# Rosemary Collaboratory



**The Rosemary Collaboratory** is a Special Olympics initiative focused on improving health care systems for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

The Arc of PA is part of this partnership alongside Special Olympics Pennsylvania (SOPA), Special Olympics International (SOI), and Social Impact Studios Consulting to **identify barriers to care and develop solutions** that make health care more inclusive and accessible.



# Disability Health Action Network (DHAN)

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**DHAN is a statewide collaborative**, an initiative of The Arc of PA, committed to advancing the health and well-being of individuals with disabilities in Pennsylvania.

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



# DHAN's 2025 – 2026 Action Plan



The DHAN Advisory Committee met 4 times throughout the past year, in addition to multiple meetings across separate Work Groups. Each Work Group identified, and achieved, specific goals.

- **Resources:** Launched an online Disability Health Resource Hub (<https://dhanpa.org/>)
- **Voices & Policy:** Advanced reactivation of the *Governor's Cabinet and Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities*
- **Access:** Developed a resource with current telehealth information
- **Qualified Healthcare Staff:** Curated existing educational curricula
- **Data and Research:** Identified existing disability data sources



At the May meeting, the Advisory Committee began developing goals for the upcoming year.

# 2026 Disability Health Action Summit



- **Theme:** Beyond Barriers, Toward Solutions
- **Dates:** May 19 – 20, 2026
- **Keynote Speakers:** Theo Braddy, MSW and Secretary Valerie A. Arkoosh, MD, MPH
- **Attendance:** Total of **150 participants** (vendors, sponsors, speakers, staff, & attendees)

*“It was great to hear stories about how we're working to create equity in healthcare. There is so much more work to be done, but it's inspiring to hear about the people already out there with their sleeves rolled up.” – Anonymous Feedback*



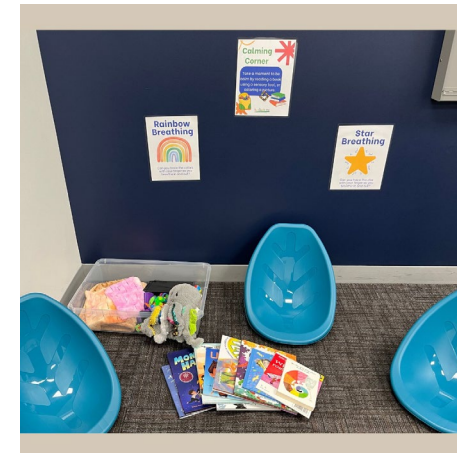
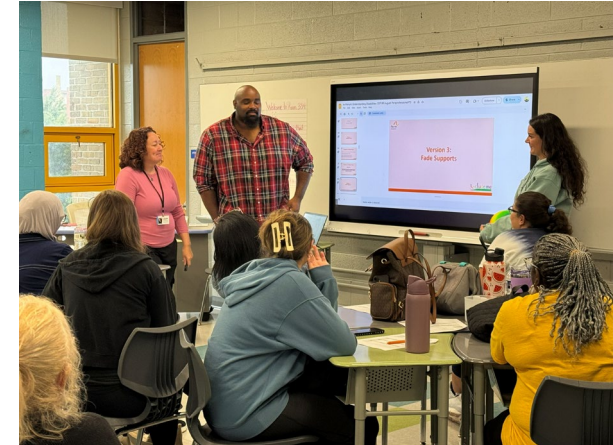
During the event, The Arc of PA was awarded the **Golisano Health Leadership Award** by Special Olympics International/Special Olympics Pennsylvania.

# Include Me School Age

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# IM By the Numbers

- Total # of school districts supported: **18**
- Total # of school buildings supported: **48**
- Estimated total # of professionals trained (all school staff): **10,506**
- Total # of training sessions conducted: **96**
- Total # of in-person Disability Acceptance Through Literature (DATL) sessions: **114**
- Estimated total # of students participating in an in-person DATL: **~20/session**
- Total # of in-person Pre-ETS sessions conducted: **17**



# IM Highlights

## Developed 3 New Trainings

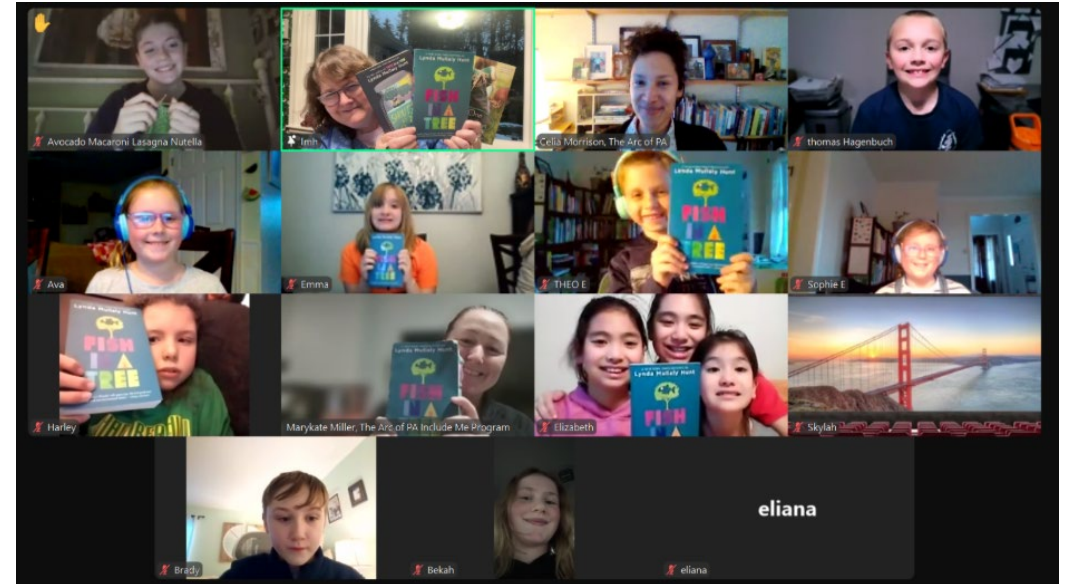
- Brain Architecture
- Educational Technology for Inclusion
- Puppetry and Play for Inclusion

## Refined Inclusive Project Spending

- Sensory room materials & fidget tools
- Weighted lap pads & adapted seating
- Visual times & schedules

## Presented at 2 Conferences

- 2 sessions and tabling at the PA Department of Education Conference in Hershey, PA in February 2026
- 2 sessions at Bridging Knowledge to Know How Conference in State College, PA in July 2025



**A DATL virtual session had a visit from the author of *Fish in a Tree*!**

# Includi-Con 2026



**Includi-Con** (a virtual event) aims to promote, elevate, and educate about the importance of inclusive practices in education.

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.



# ADEPT (Arc Discovery Employment Transition) Program

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# ADEPT



Our **ADEPT (Arc Discovery Employment Transition) Program** offers training for service providers in Supported Employment, Discovery, and Job Development.

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

**MAKING EMPLOYMENT WORK**

**Earn a basic ACRE certificate!**

**June 24-26, 2026**

- 3 days of Zoom classes with course assignments and self-paced online content
- Training qualifies individuals to provide Supported Employment with PA's Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and Office of Developmental Programs

REGISTER AT:  
[thearcpa.org/training](http://thearcpa.org/training)

**CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT**

Learn how to create and support fully customized jobs. Earn certification for Customized Employment and Advanced Supported Employment.

**JULY 16 - 17, 2026**  
**AUGUST 13 - 14, 2026**  
**SEPTEMBER 17 - 18, 2026**  
**OCTOBER 22 - 23, 2026**  
\*must attend all dates

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

# ACRE & CE

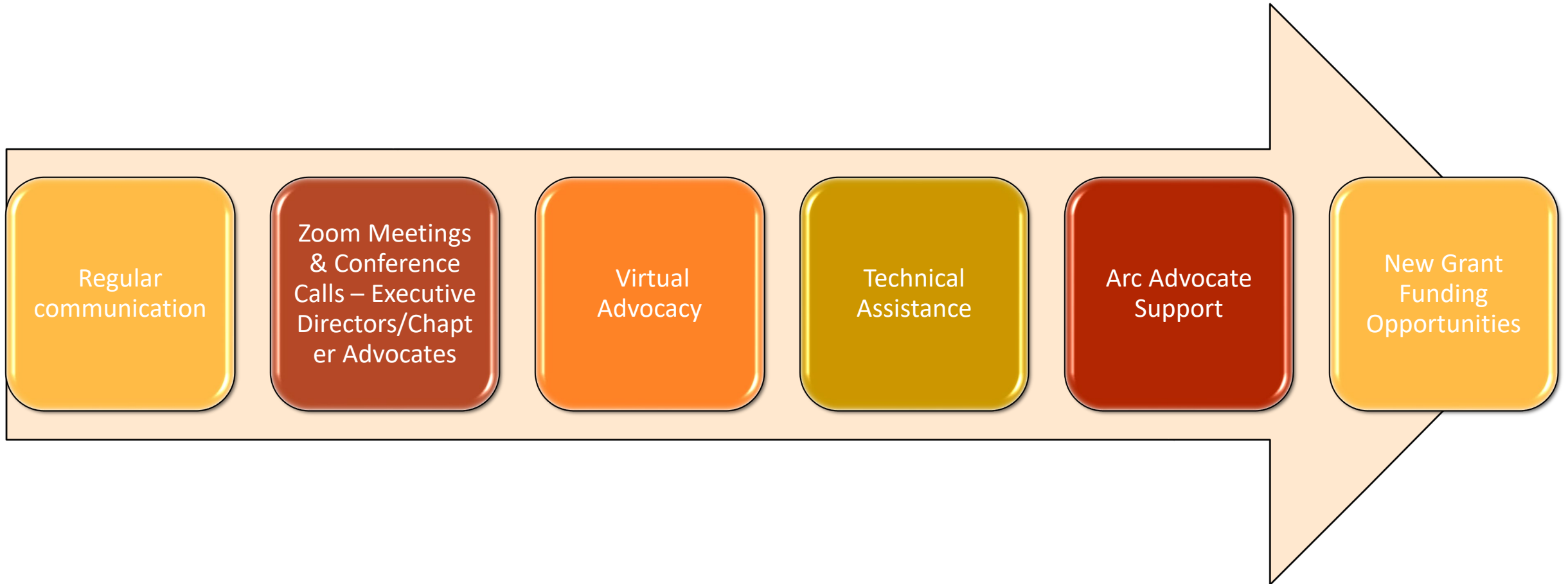
ADEPT includes **ACRE certification** and training in **Customized Employment** – a way of helping people find jobs that match their skills, interests, and strengths with what a business needs.

ACRE: **387** professionals certified

CE: **13** individuals working on certifications



# Support to Local Chapters



# The Arc of PA Partners



|                                       |                                |                                         |                                               |                                    |                              |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 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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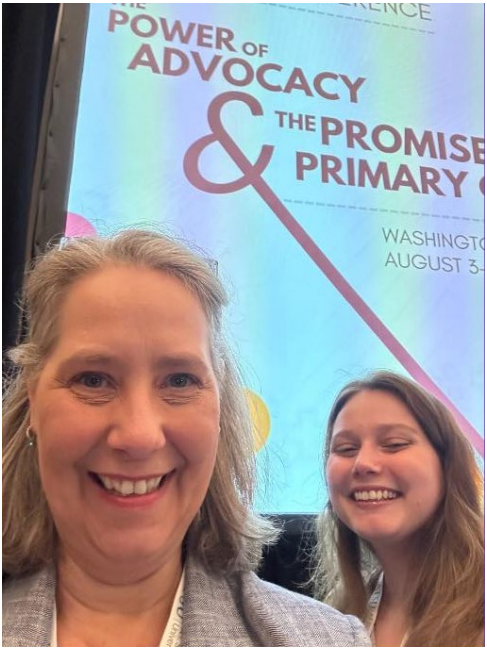


Board of Directors

Chapter Executives and Presidents

State Chapter Staff

Countless Volunteers



# Thank You!

