



The Arc®

Arizona



Melanie Soto,
State Director
The Arc of Arizona

What We Do

The Arc of Arizona promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community. We are the only community-based non-profit working for people with IDD throughout their lifetimes and across all diagnoses – from autism to Down syndrome to Fragile X and more than 100 other developmental disabilities.

Creating Change

The Arc of Arizona partners with local chapters throughout the state who provide services, support and advocacy for families impacted by IDD in their communities. This national network of state and local chapters, along with The Arc of the United States in Washington, D.C., provides a variety of resources to empower individuals with IDD and their families and educate others about the IDD movement.

Public Policy

The Arc of Arizona works with experts at the national, state and local levels to ensure that our elected and appointed officials understand the needs, issues and concerns of people with IDD, and that federal and state laws and regulations help to promote full inclusion. Our Public Policy staff mobilizes self-advocates, disability organizations, and individuals across Arizona who care about the rights of all people with disabilities, utilizing grassroots action to effect substantial and meaningful progress in the legislative landscape.



Current Initiatives

- Health Equity Awareness
- Self Advocacy Training
- Supported Decision Making
- Arizona Sexual Violence & Disability Network
- Wings for Autism
- Sprout Film Festival



January 2020

- ❑ Before the COVID-19 Pandemic, families were already coping with the silent waiting list for services. This waiting list was caused by the workforce crisis that was already happening in the caregiving sector.
- ❑ Providers were being reimbursed below the cost to provide services and therefore did not have the capacity to improve their retention of Direct Support Professionals, Therapist, etc.

A Big Problem Was About To Get Bigger.

How did the Pandemic affect the IDD Community and their Access to Equitable Healthcare?

- ❑ Panic Buying caused Providers and Families not to be able to access PPE, cleaning supplies and medical equipment.
- ❑ Food Insecurity worsened as price of goods increased and supply was limited on even the most basic needs.
- ❑ Public Transportation was stopped for various periods of time or became very restrictive.
- ❑ Communication breakdown between Healthcare Providers and their patients needs when everyone pivoted to telehealth.
- ❑ Eligibility of vaccines during the roll out did not include HCBS congregate setting providers or their members until 3 months after Nursing Facilities were eligible.



*Did you experience any
of these or others issues
not mentioned?*

How did Rural Arizona Communities Respond to the Crisis?

- ❑ New Food Pantries/Food Shares were started by churches and other community partners.
- ❑ County Health Departments sourced limited PPE for IDD Providers at no charge.
- ❑ Fire Departments established a system of cards (green, yellow, and red) for tribal elders to display in their windows.
- ❑ The Area on Aging partnered with County Health Departments to arrange transportation and setup walk in vaccination sites.
- ❑ Division of Developmental Disabilities implemented virtual monthly Town Hall Meetings to communicate and receive feedback from self advocates, families, caregivers and providers. CMS allowed for many exceptions to rules during the pandemic.

How did Rural Arizona Communities Respond to the Crisis?

Continued...

- ❑ Navajo County Public Health Department utilized AM radio stations for information dissemination to address areas lacking internet and cell phone service.
- ❑ Coconino County Health Department implemented using a language line to address barriers for non-English speakers. They also distributed COVID-19 rapid test kits to local schools and other community partners.
- ❑ In-home vaccinations were made available for those that could not leave their homes due to lack of transportation and/or were immune compromised.
- ❑ Many organizations and County Health Departments coordinated transportation for individuals needing vaccinations, treatments, etc.



*How did you or your
organization respond
to the pandemic?*

What did we learn and how do we go forward as the “pandemic” ends?



- ❑ Self Advocates and their families need to know their rights.
- ❑ Know what specific community resources are available in your area prior to an emergency.
- ❑ Future Planning starts the day a person with IDD is born.
- ❑ Have adequate supplies on hand for basic needs, including medical supplies.
- ❑ Advocating for your needs must be a priority! Communicate with Legislation that the IDD Community Matters.

Resources

- ❑ Future Planning Tool Kit <https://futureplanning.thearc.org/landing>
- ❑ The ADA requires that Health Care Facilities provide fair and equitable access to healthcare <https://adata.org/factsheet/health-care-and-ada>
- ❑ Arizona Resources <https://arcarizona.org/resources/resources-in-arizona/>
- ❑ Contact your Legislative Representative, not sure who they are? <https://www.azleg.gov/findmylegislator/>
- ❑ Sign up for our email list by visiting <https://vr2.verticalresponse.com/s/websitesignupform0419201921713pm>

Or Scan the QR Code



#joinourfight

Contact Us

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We want to feel valued,
fall in love, and
achieve our
dreams. It's Possible!





Questions



Comments



Feedback

