A Leader in Disability Rights

The Arc Wisconsin supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) over The Arc of their lifetime.

Since 1960, The Arc Wisconsin has served individuals and their families through our locally affiliated chapters across the state.

The Arc Wisconsin works to develop programs and advocate for public policy giving people with I/DD the opportunity to learn, live, and work inclusively in their communities.
Who we serve

People with I/DD can have a variety of diagnoses and typically experience significant limitations in both intellectual functioning and adaptive behavior, which can include everyday social and practical skills. Some of the more well-known diagnoses that fall under this umbrella include:

- Down syndrome
- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Cerebral palsy
- Epilepsy
- Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

What We Believe

People with I/DD of all ages are valued members of their communities and are fully accepted and able to participate in and contribute to all aspects of community, including but not limited to school, a job with fair wages, civic activities, and places of worship. People with I/DD and their families should have access to the support, information, resources, and services they need to enjoy the same opportunities in life as people without disabilities.

Our Vision for The Arc Wisconsin and Local Chapters

The Arc Wisconsin is the state’s leading advocate for people with I/DD of all ages and backgrounds and their families. Chapters of The Arc provide and promote essential services and model best practices that allow people to succeed in living their lives the way they want with necessary supports. The Arc Wisconsin is a leading public policy voice in Madison, ensuring that there are sufficient resources to meet the needs of people with I/DD in every community in our state.

Advocating for Disability Rights

The Arc Wisconsin plays a critical role in statewide efforts to change or enact laws in Wisconsin that benefit the lives of people with I/DD and their families. We advocate in Madison with legislators, our Governor, and state agencies for access and equality. With self-advocates leading the way, we have made huge progress in employment and supported decision-making for increased independence. We also work with our local chapters to advocate with our federal elected officials to protect Medicaid and Social Security.

Future Planning

There are 75,000 people with I/DD in Wisconsin who live with aging caregivers with no plan in place for their future. A future plan is important throughout all stages of life, even for youth. The Arc Wisconsin has highly trained Future Planners who can help you develop a roadmap that offers peace of mind during important transitions and when a caregiver can no longer provide care.

Increasing Awareness

The Arc Wisconsin is committed to promoting awareness about I/DD and improving quality of life for people and their families. Through in-person and on-line trainings The Arc Wisconsin is leading community conversations about family supports and caregiving, supported decision-making, future planning, Medicaid, ABLE financial planning and more.

Donate

With your gift, The Arc Wisconsin will continue our work to protect the rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and support their full inclusion and participation in the community.

BECOME A MEMBER

Join The Arc Wisconsin’s disability rights movement by becoming a member today! arcwi.org/membership

DISABILITY RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Clearly The Arc Wisconsin has turned a new page in disability advocacy in Wisconsin, and has carved out a key role as a leader that has been missing in our state.

—LYNN BREEDLOVE

CO-CHAIR WISCONSIN LONG-TERM CARE COALITION