



The Arc

Oakland County

Serving persons with intellectual and
developmental disabilities since 1967



Achieve with us.

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About The Arc of Oakland County

The Arc of Oakland County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable membership organization working directly with children and adults with all levels of intellectual and other related developmental disabilities, and their families.

Funded in part by the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and through the kindness of our most generous individual donors, we proudly serve individuals and families throughout Oakland County as a local affiliated chapter of The Arc Michigan and The Arc of the United States.

We advocate for the rights and full participation of all children and adults with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. We strive to improve systems of supports and services; connect families; inspire our community and influence public policy.

Information and Referrals

The Arc of Oakland County provides information about community resources, programs and services (such as schools, job training, residential opportunities, physician, dentists, lawyers and more). The agency also offers assistance with out-of-state referrals when possible.

Legal Advocacy

The Arc of Oakland County lawyers assist families with a variety of issues such as writing a will, power of attorney, guardianship, estate planning and other probate matters. The Arc staff attorneys also work cooperatively with private practice attorneys on issues regarding legal intervention or assistance.

Guardianship & Alternatives

The Arc of Oakland County staff offers helpful information and guidance to families considering guardianship or the alternatives for someone with an intellectual and other related developmental disability.

Governmental and Financial Benefits

Many people with an intellectual impairment and other related developmental disabilities qualify for disability benefits such as Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, Family Support Subsidy, Adult Home Help Services and much more. The Arc of Oakland County staff can help answer questions that parents or guardians have about these and other entitlements.

Special Education Law

The Arc of Oakland County staff provides knowledgeable assistance and support to parents and guardians preparing and understanding the Individualized Education Plan (IEP), based on the federal Individuals with Disabilities Improvement Education Act (IDIEA) and Michigan's Mandatory Special Education Act, for children or young adults with an intellectual and other related developmental disability.

Etheridge Plan

The Etheridge Plan was developed for parents/family members who are concerned about the many requirements of a child with special needs when they themselves can no longer manage life situations because of illness or death. The Etheridge Plan is a formal, comprehensive, lifetime advocacy program. It provides consistent follow-up and secures appropriate community resources for persons with an intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. The plan also provides trustees and/or guardianship arrangements if so desired by the family.

Dignified Lifestyles

The Arc of Oakland County regularly reviews community programs to ensure high quality and appropriate delivery of services. Staff and trained volunteers monitor community adult foster care homes ("Dignified Lifestyles"), educational and work programs and other public agency services.

Fiscal Intermediary

Contracted by the Macomb Oakland Regional Center, Inc., The Arc of Oakland County serves as Fiscal Intermediary for individuals who have chosen to enroll in Self-Determination. As Fiscal Intermediary, The Arc processes invoices, time sheets and respite vouchers on behalf of each consumer and helps them monitor their individual budget, current PCP guidelines, and Medicaid law. The Arc staff works with the consumer, his/her family, and their MORC, Inc. supports coordinator to help them flex their budgeted dollars to further meet their needs. The Arc acts as "Payroll Agent" for individuals who directly employ their own staff.

Michigan Performing Arts Talent Show

The Arc of Oakland County's Michigan Performing Arts Talent Show is a non-competitive performing arts program that brings together talent from across the state. Open to all performing artists with an intellectual and/or developmental disability, each participant has the opportunity to perform on a professional stage before a live audience. This is a rewarding experience for both the audience and the program participants.

Dove Awards Presentation and Silent Auction

The Arc of Oakland County's Dove Awards are presented each year to individuals who have made significant contributions on behalf of persons with intellectual and other related developmental disabilities. Nominations are sent out to members, friends, organizations and professionals across the county and state. The Arc also holds a Silent Auction with the Dove Awards program each year. This agency fundraiser is a celebration of the selflessness and achievements of individuals who help others.

Weight Watchers Program

The Arc of Oakland County sponsors a Weight Watchers Program that meets every Tuesday evening at the Big Beaver United Methodist Church in Troy. Open to persons with disabilities and those that accompany and/or drive them to the meetings (aides, parents, friends or relatives), the initial fee is \$1 for joining and the weekly attendance fee is 50 cents.