



Achieving Bright Futures

Our vision is that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) are valued and engaged members of our society, enjoying the same respect, dignity, equality, safety, and security afforded to you. We know that people with I/DD have extraordinary contributions to make, and we will keep fighting so they have every opportunity to achieve and succeed.

The Arc was created by a group of parents and concerned citizens who demanded better for their loved ones. What began as a small yet impassioned conversation to keep loved ones out of large-scale institutions has evolved into America's most comprehensive organization for people with I/DD.

Today, we've made strides in building a better world for people with I/DD, but we must keep promoting disability rights as human rights. We want to guarantee that The Arc and our vast network of support can always be here to serve the needs of people with I/DD. **Please partner with us to challenge the world to see individuals for their achievements, not their limitations, and to build a better tomorrow.**

The Arc's Policy in Action

We have a comprehensive three-pronged plan – to lead the fight for inclusion and opportunity, build a nation-wide movement, and create practical solutions to empower people to live their best lives – designed to promote and protect the rights of people with I/DD at every stage of life.

With your support, the most immediate goals within our plan can be successfully accomplished:



1

Protect essential programs (e.g. Medicaid, Affordable Care Act, Medicare, SSI and Social Security) from budget cuts and other changes which will hurt people with I/DD and their families and prevent efforts to weaken civil rights laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.



2

Build a powerful online disability rights movement which effectively organizes and mobilizes people and money in support of people with I/DD and their families.



3

Capitalize on the collective knowledge of our chapters to expand the range and improve the quality and accessibility of services and supports for people with I/DD, including programs such as The Center for Future Planning, the National Center on Criminal Justice and Disability, and The Arc@Work.

Ricardo's Story

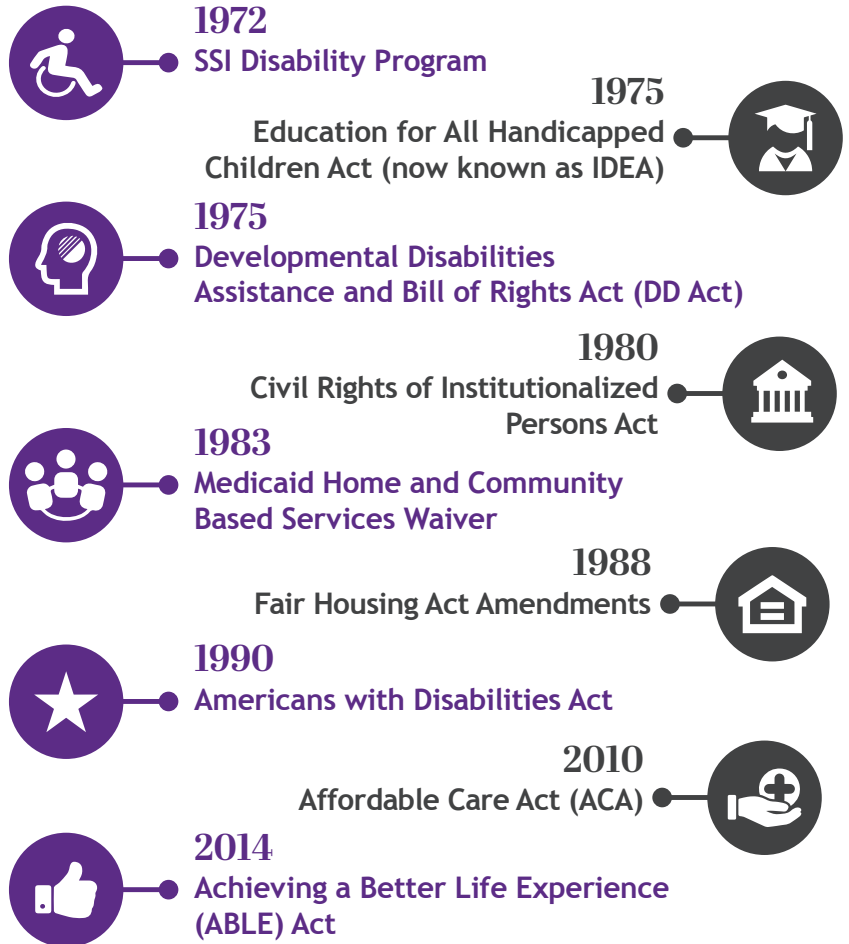


Ricardo had big hopes and dreams, but as is too often experienced by many people with I/DD, they seemed impossible. Determined to live independently in his community, he fought for the right to leave the institution where he grew up. Tenacious in his quest for independence, he has worked at the Martin Luther King Library in downtown DC for 40 years. He and his childhood friend Donna, who he met at the institution and who recently retired from Walter Reed Medical Center, visited each other frequently and their friendship soon blossomed into romance.

At a time when few individuals with I/DD lived independently like everyone else, they married and had a son. The Arc offered support to both of them throughout their journey, enabling him and Donna to live life on their own terms. Ricardo and his wife Donna remain vocal self-advocates, and have testified before Congress, "I've seen people with severe disabilities who have grown and accomplished great things given the right support."

The Power of The Arc's Advocacy

People with I/DD and their families fully embrace The Arc as the only nation-wide organization where they can go for advocacy, services, and supports. The Arc has been instrumental in the passage of every major piece of federal legislation impacting people with I/DD. Here are just a few:



In 2017, The Arc and its powerful chapter network of 1 million+ Americans mobilized to defeat 12 bills that would strip critical healthcare and Medicaid benefits from millions of people with I/DD.

Your contribution will help us drive sustainable changes in society and empower individuals with I/DD, so that Ricardo and everyone like him can achieve the life they dream of in a world that respects their human rights.

When we build a better world for people with I/DD, we build a better world for all of us.

11%
FUNDRAISING

89%
SERVICE EXPENDITURES

51 STAFF | 624 CHAPTER AFFILIATES | 1 MILLION+ PEOPLE SERVED IN THE ARC NETWORK