

The Arc of New Jersey Family Institute



For the families of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



985 Livingston Avenue
North Brunswick, NJ 08902
732.246.2526
fap@arcnj.org
www.thearcfamilyinstitute.org



*DON'T CUT OUR
LIFELINE*

Protect the Lifeline

2017 will be a critical year for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families. With Congress re-convened and a new administration taking office in a few days, it is imperative that The Arc and all our constituents voice our concerns and educate decision-makers on the local, state and

national levels about the needs and issues of people with I/DD, and their families.

In particular, education about the federal programs that provide the key to community living and inclusion for people with I/DD across the nation – the “Lifeline” programs – is of critical importance. Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security, Medicare and civil rights laws like the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are lifelines for people with I/DD and their families, providing benefits, supports, and civil rights protections that help make community living possible.

Now more than ever, we must join together as a collective movement to ensure that our lifeline programs and civil rights are protected. In the coming months, we will be calling on you as advocates to take action by reaching out to the President and Congress to educate them on the importance of these lifelines and to urge them to preserve – not cut - these essential programs and civil rights laws.

The Arc on the local, state and national levels is committed to working tirelessly to preserve the lifeline programs but we cannot do it without your help. Please respond when you see Action Alerts! Every call, every email and every letter counts. You can also help by telling your story. How would a repeal of the ACA affect you or a loved one? How does Medicaid and Social Security support you or your family member? In the months ahead, we will be asking individuals and families to share their stories which will put the human face on the issue.

You can see more information about how the Lifeline programs support people with I/DD and why it is vital to protect them by visiting our website at www.arcnj.org. Check back often, as we'll be adding new fact sheets and tools throughout the year.

You can also stay informed by signing up for The Arc's Disability Advocacy Network at <http://disabilityadvocacynetwork.org/app/register?0&m=9899>.

If you have any questions, you can always reach out to us at fap@arcnj.org or 732.246.2526. Thank you!