

The Arc of Florida

Annual Impact Report

2025-2026

OUR MISSION

Working with local, state, and national partners, The Arc of Florida advocates for local chapters, public policies, and high-quality supports for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to be fully included in all aspects of their community.

OUR VISION

A Florida where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the opportunity to live, learn, work, and thrive fully included in all aspects of their community.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



It's been quite a year. I am so proud to be part of this community of advocates, caregivers, providers, members, and clients.

Since joining The Arc of Florida at the beginning of the fiscal year, I've had the chance to speak with families, hear from providers, and meet with elected officials to share the challenges – and potential solutions – that affect you and those you serve. And, most importantly, I've had opportunities to meet with clients, see their smiles, listen to their infectious laughter, and witness all they've accomplished with the support of The Arc chapters, colleagues, and community partners statewide. Those are the moments that fuel me … and, I know, all of you.

This is why The Arc of Florida adopted an ambitious strategic plan this year – because, while we have accomplished so much in nearly 70 years, we have so much more to do.

Over the past year, the waiting list for services dropped by nearly 10,000. Incredible.

But it's still 15,000+ deep – and that should keep all of us up at night. Fifteen thousand individuals and their families are waiting to receive services they desperately need.

Fortunately, The Arc community continues to advocate for policy, funding, and system improvements to get more individuals off the waiting list and into services.

While The Arc of Florida has always been a vocal advocate in the legislature, our strategic plan challenges us to do even more. We've already started diving in to implement key initiatives. It starts with simple visibility … increasing awareness of who we are, what we do, and why it matters. That's the foundation for the next several years as we work to grow our membership base, provide even greater value for members, deepen leadership support, strengthen connections among The Arc chapters statewide, and influence policy and legislation to improve the lives and futures of individuals with IDD.

Thank you for your partnership, your support, and your advocacy.

Summer Pfeiffer, President and CEO

FROM THE CHAIR



Over the past year, conversations with members, self-advocates, families, and providers across Florida have reinforced three recurring themes: resilience, determination, and hope.

I see resilience in individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) advocating for the lives they want to lead, in families navigating complicated systems, and in providers working to deliver quality supports amid growing demands. Their determination is a powerful reminder of why The Arc of Florida's work matters.

As a Board, our responsibility is to help turn that determination into meaningful progress. That means listening to our members, setting a clear direction, and strengthening our collective ability to influence the policies, funding, and systems that shape people's everyday lives.

This year, President and CEO Summer Pfeiffer completed her first year, and her energy and commitment have helped move that work forward. With a new strategic plan guiding us, we are building stronger connections among our chapters, expanding our visibility, and creating more opportunities for members to learn from and support one another. Our strength lies in what we bring together: the lived experiences of individuals and families, the expertise of local chapters and providers, and a shared commitment to full inclusion. Together, we bring those perspectives to policymakers and work toward solutions that reflect what people actually need.

There is much to celebrate, and much still to do. We must continue advocating for access to quality services while also asking how those services can evolve. People deserve choices, opportunities, and supports that respond to their changing needs. Progress requires both sustained advocacy and a willingness to think differently.

I am grateful to my fellow Board members, our staff, our chapters, and every individual who contributes to this work. Your partnership gives me confidence in what we can accomplish together.

Resilience keeps us moving. Determination gives our work purpose. And hope grows when we turn our shared commitment into action.

Kari Bates
Chair of the Board, The Arc of Florida
President and CEO, The Arc Jacksonville

DID YOU KNOW ....



You can easily support The Arc of Florida when you renew your Florida license plate or driver license! It's easy – just check the box to designate a small donation to support individuals with IDD! Your dollar (or two!) goes directly to support The Arc of Florida's work to support services, policy, and support for individuals with IDD.

Key Legislative Successes

Thank you for your tireless advocacy! In 2026, the **Florida Legislature approved a $22M appropriation for an APD Provider Rate Increase.**











Legislative Impact: One Voice Campaign

We launched the One Voice Campaign this year as part of our efforts to increase provider rates, bringing the lived experiences and authentic voices of individuals with IDD and their families.

We had an astounding response to this campaign, and we're grateful to all of our members who helped make the first year so successful. We're excited to continue this powerful initiative as we move forward with One Voice!













Legislative Impact: #StepUp

Our #StepUp Program, launched in 2025, made it possible for **12 self-advocates and their caregivers to elevate the voices of individuals with IDD** during Developmental Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol!

#StepUp provides financial support to individuals with IDD and their families to share their personal experiences directly with lawmakers.

Though the personal testimonies of individuals and families who navigate systems and services daily are extremely powerful, the expenses associated with traveling to the Capitol to advocate can make it cost prohibitive to many.

The #StepUp Program was established to help alleviate some of the financial burden so more individuals with IDD and their families can directly share their lived experiences with legislators.

Jericka, Edward, Lequina, and Shane met with 11 legislators, connected with 25 organizations, and networked with several self-advocates, sharing their voices and experiences to influence decisions affecting individuals with IDD.

Melinda and Stephanie spoke with Bob Asztalos, Director of the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, met with Rep. Anna Eskamanie, attended a press conference with Sen. Tracie Davis, and connected with many agencies and advocates as they shared their personal experiences.

#StepUp is possible because of the generosity of donors who believe in the power of self-advocacy. THANK YOU to everyone who contributes to this program!

Connections, Partnerships, and Impact

2025 Advocacy Days at Disney

When more than 500 advocates come together to share experiences, voices, and passion, the impact can be life changing. Our 2025 Advocacy Days at Disney brought education, networking, connections, valuable resources, meaningful conversation, and, of course, magical memories.











Connections, Partnerships, and Impact

Cheering for our New Partnership with Special Olympics of Florida

We believe in the potential of every individual with IDD. We are thrilled to partner with Special Olympics of Florida to bring their hard work, perseverance, and determination to the fields, courts, tracks, and pools! This was the first time Special Olympics of Florida hosted a Resource Row, and we were invited to participate to share information about The Arc of Florida, important resources, and how to connect with our members.







Reaching Families at Family Café

The annual Family Café is the largest statewide cross-disability gathering in Florida, and we were thrilled to once again be part of this powerful event with an exhibit booth. Joining this event was directly aligned with part of our strategic plan to grow awareness and visibility by increasing our presence at events. This will continue to be a significant part of our future as we expand our network and influence.







Connections, Partnerships, and Impact

In line with our strategic priority to grow awareness of The Arc of Florida, we participated in conferences and town halls throughout the state, including the FSU Panama City Disability Conference and ICMC Town Halls. It's been a phenomenal year building relationships and elevating the brand of The Arc of Florida!

Training and Networking

Responding to the requests of members, The Arc of Florida increased training and networking opportunities throughout the past year. Our Best Practices 2026 doubled in participation, included more training sessions, and featured a local chapter of The Arc to host and show off their best practices. Special thanks to The Arc Jacksonville for hosting!







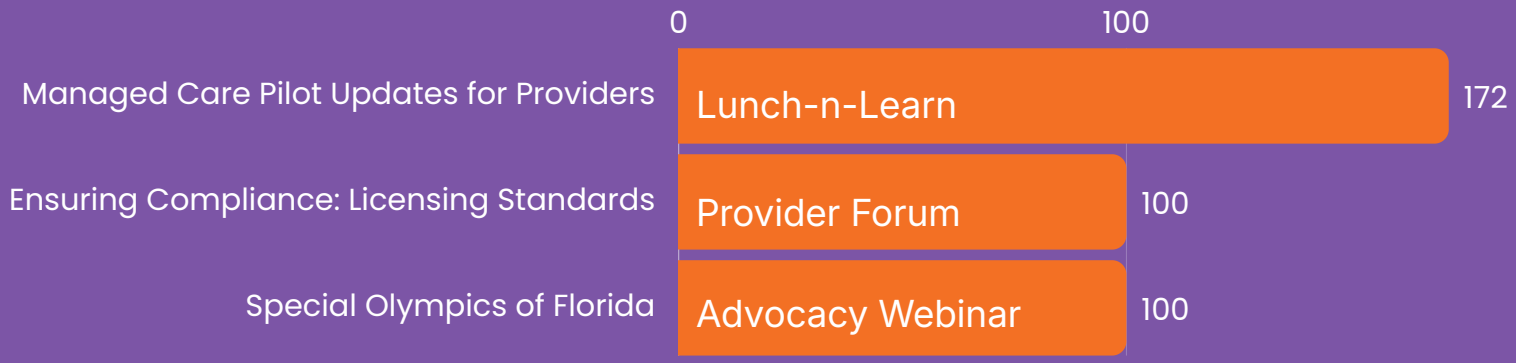


Connections, Partnerships, and Impact

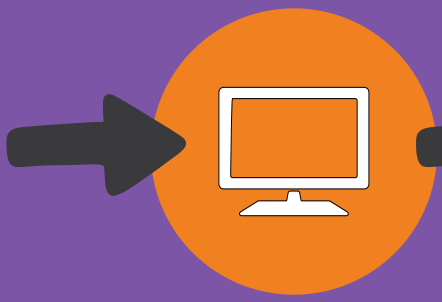
Training and Advocacy

Through monthly Advocacy Webinars, Provider Forums, and Lunch-n-Learns, The Arc of Florida offers guest speakers, IDD expert resources, and additional support to help members advocate and improve services for individuals with IDD.

Most Popular Topics



19
Sessions



1516
Total participants

TOP 3

Lunch-n-Learns

1. Managed Care Pilot Updates for Providers
2. Medicaid Eligibility
3. Working People with Disabilities

Provider Forums

1. Ensuring Compliance: Licensing Standards
2. How AI is Revolutionizing Documentation
3. How to Avoid Pharmacy NNCs

Advocacy Webinars

1. Special Olympics of Florida
2. Advocating with FL SAND
3. How to Tell Your Story

The Arc of Florida

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

The Arc of Florida believes in the power of community. We are thankful for our incredible membership base – nearly 70 strong – dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with IDD. Together, we create stronger communities through advocacy, inclusion, and support.

Benefits of Membership include:

- Advocacy regarding Legislative Priorities and Statewide Budget Initiatives
- Representation before the State of Florida Executive Branch on various Agency Administrative Rules
- Training and Networking Opportunities
- Best Practices Leadership Conference
- Advocacy Days at Disney Conference
- Exemption from License Taxes under Section 320.08, Florida Statutes (for eligible members)
- Monthly Webinars for Advocates, Providers, Family Members, and Caregivers
- Advocacy Meetings
- Lunch-N-Learns
- Members-Only Portal with advocacy and storytelling resources (coming soon!)

For more information on becoming a member of The Arc of Florida, to support The Arc of Florida, or to contribute to the #StepUp Program, visit www.ArcFlorida.org or contact Summer.Pfeiffer@arcflorida.org