



Texas

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities.*

PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Arc of Texas advocates for policy that moves Texas forward in its community-inclusion of Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

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QUALITY OF LIFE



EDUCATION



EMPLOYMENT



CIVIL RIGHTS

QUALITY OF LIFE

- **Increase Access to Home and Community-Based Services:** Reduce wait times for services that prevent institutionalization. Improve management of interest lists to achieve timely access to care.
- **Address the Direct Care Workforce Crisis:** Strengthen the direct care workforce through wage parity between direct support professionals assisting people with IDD in the community (\$10.60/hour) and institutional settings (\$19.16/hour).
- **Expand Access to Mental Health Services:** Increase outpatient capacity and availability of mental health services for individuals with IDD by expanding the use of the biopsychosocial model through local IDD authorities.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

- **Equitable Funding for Special Education Services:** Implement the Special Education Funding Commission's recommendation to shift to an intensity-based funding model that addresses each child's unique educational needs.
- **Promote Safe and Inclusive School Environments:** Address the disproportionate physical restraints students with disabilities experience by enhancing training for educators on effective positive behavior strategies and de-escalation. Ensure students with disabilities are fully included in school safety and emergency planning efforts.
- **Expand Access to Inclusive Higher Education:** Establish funding opportunities for colleges and universities to create inclusive postsecondary programs supportive of the academic and social needs of students with IDD.

CONTINUE

COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

- **Promote Competitive Integrated Employment:** Advocate for policies that increase access to competitive, integrated employment opportunities, enabling individuals with IDD to earn competitive wages in inclusive workplaces.
- **Enhance Employment Support Services and Peer Support:** Expand funding for job training, career counseling, on-the-job supports, and peer support programs to help individuals with IDD secure, retain, and succeed in meaningful employment.
- **Eliminate Barriers to Employment:** Address barriers to employment by advocating for workplace accommodations, inclusive hiring practices, and equal opportunities for career advancement.

CIVIL RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

- **Define and Establish an Appropriate Process for Identifying People with IDD:** Ensure an accurate and consistent definition of IDD, while creating a clear, standardized process for identifying individuals with IDD within the criminal legal system to prevent unwarranted executions, promote fairness, and bring Texas into compliance with federal law.
- **Promote Self-Determination and Protect Rights of Texans with IDD:** Promote policies that empower Texans with IDD to make informed choices and live independently, while safeguarding their rights from discrimination, exploitation, or abuse.
- **Uphold Existing Voting Rights for Texans with IDD:** Ensure the ability to vote privately and independently through access, accommodations, and support.

ABOUT THE ARC OF TEXAS

Since 1953, The Arc of Texas has been involved in the creation or preservation of nearly every support available to Texans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). A statewide advocacy organization, we promote, protect, and advocate for the human rights and self-determination of the 500,000+ Texans with IDD and collaborate with our local chapters, self-advocates, families, and allies to inform state policymakers about barriers faced by their constituents and proposed solutions.