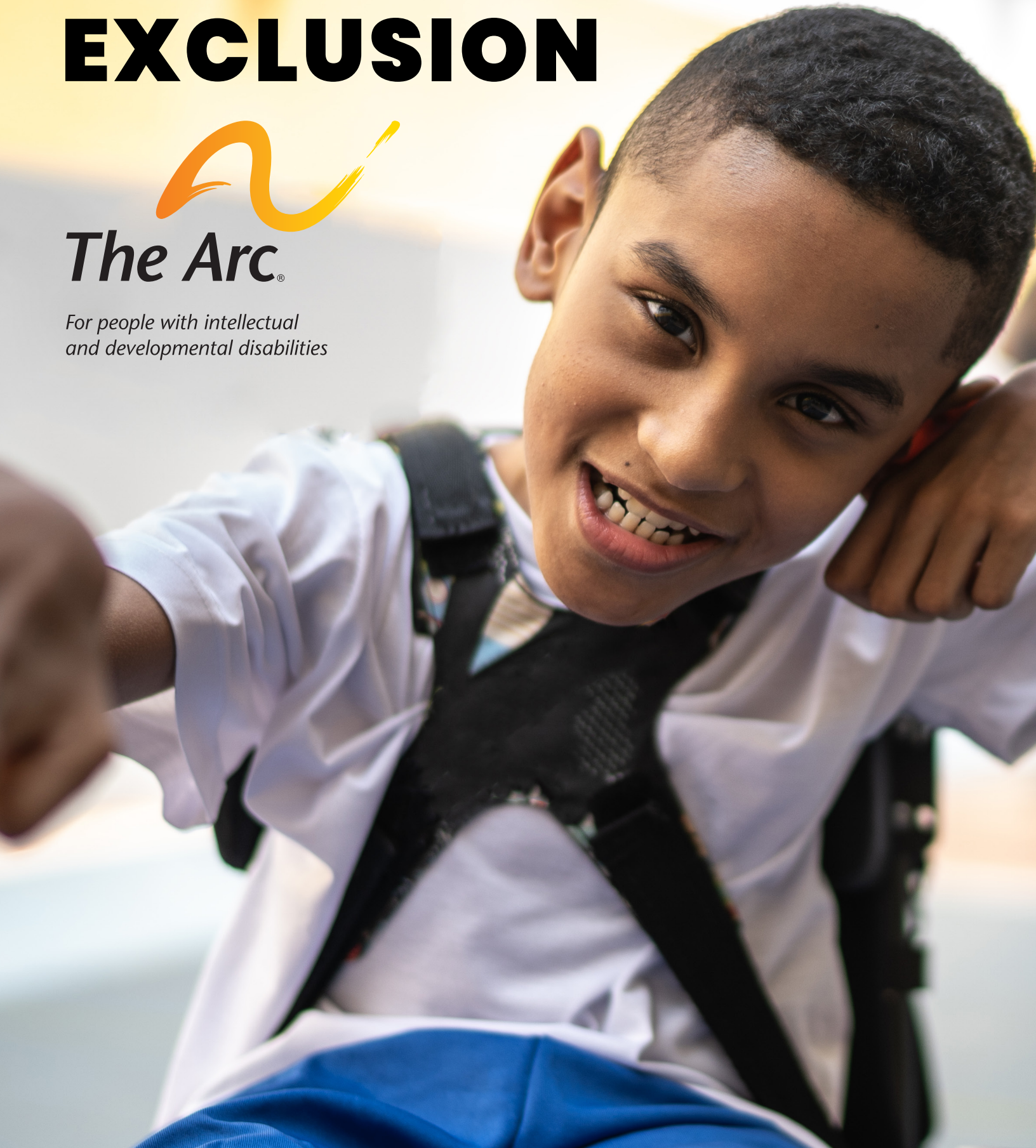


END THE EXCLUSION



The Arc[®]

*For people with intellectual
and developmental disabilities*



**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
HAVE BEEN**

ISOLATED

DISRESPECTED

IGNORED

BY OUR SOCIETY.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.



The Arc

The United States has the resources and knowledge to advance a society where children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities can lead rich lives. But despite the progress we've made, too many people face barriers that limit their educational opportunities, exclude them from jobs, force them to stay impoverished, and deny them services that allow them to live in their community. We can do better than this—we are better than this.

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PURSUE THEIR POTENTIAL

Too often, this is not true for people with disabilities. We need to:



FOSTER A SOCIETY THAT LIFTS US UP



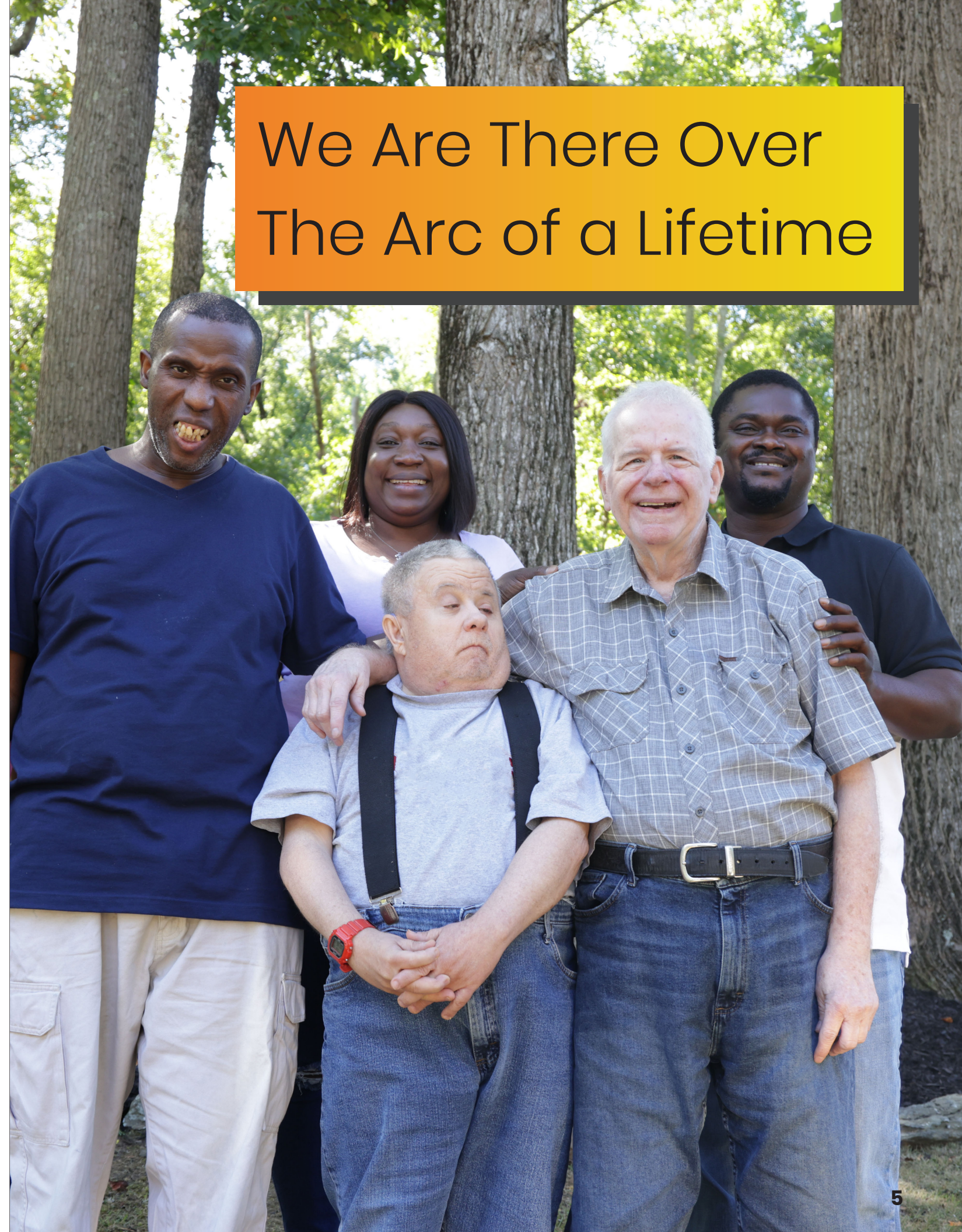
FIX THE SYSTEMS THAT HOLD US BACK



PROVIDE THE SUPPORT THAT LETS US THRIVE

THIS IS HOW WE END THE EXCLUSION.

We Are There Over The Arc of a Lifetime



FOSTER A SOCIETY THAT LIFTS US UP

About 50 years ago, The Arc's families wanted to change our society to be inclusive of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities—starting with school. The Pennsylvania state chapter of The Arc won a lawsuit in 1972 that gave students with disabilities the right to a free and appropriate public education and laid the foundation for the federal law in 1975. We continue to work with families, educators, and lawmakers to ensure that students in every state can gain the skills and knowledge to reach their full potential.

Because of that early advocacy, there are more than 7.5 million children—15% of all students—receiving services from the federal special education law. Unfortunately, not every child is receiving the individualized support they need. In fact, the US Department of Education finds that only 20 states are meeting the legal requirements. Children with disabilities are not receiving what they need due to staffing shortages, lack of trained educators, and insufficient collaboration with parents. As a result, schools are suspending students and sending them home at twice the rate of their non-disabled peers.

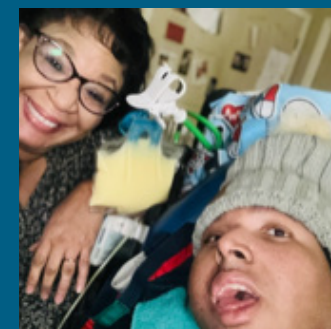


Let's Build A Just Future

We want all children, including children with disabilities, to get an education that prepares them for success throughout the arc of their lifetime. Let's show every community what excellence looks like for students with disabilities and how every school across the country can achieve a standard of excellence. And let's support parents, students, and educators who need to understand their rights and responsibilities, so they can create relationships based on trust and help all students achieve their potential.

Meet Debbi

When Debbi's son Josh was headed off to school for the first time, officials told Debbi that Josh couldn't attend their school unless she paid for a nurse to be with him during the school day. She couldn't afford that. "So, I went to The Arc and they stuck by me," Debbi recalled. "They looked up precedent cases, got their big-time lawyers involved... and we won." All the families at Josh's school are now better served because of Debbi's advocacy. Now the school informs every family whose child needs nursing care that they are entitled to support.



FIX SYSTEMS THAT HOLD US BACK

About 35 years ago, it became illegal in our country to discriminate against people with disabilities. The Arc and our partners won the passage of the bipartisan Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which sought to end the systematic exclusion of people with disabilities from workplaces, public spaces, transportation, and more. Our advocacy helped to shape a generation that now understands that disability rights are human rights.

The landmark ADA established federal civil rights protections and a set of national goals for people with disabilities. These goals are to assure equal opportunities, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. And yet, continued discrimination and prejudice forces too many people with disabilities into poverty and dependence. We are working to change policies so that a person receiving disability benefits can save more than \$2,000 a year and keep their personal care services.



Twenty four hour vigil at the US Capitol, fighting for home and community-based services

Let's Build A Just Future

We want laws that help people thrive. Jobs give purpose to many of us—let's make it easier for people with disabilities to work. Let's hold up employers who embrace the value that everyone contributes to culture and bottom lines. And let's make sure that the technologies of the future are made for us and with us. We are leading the charge to close institutions and create fulfilling lives in the community. We can ensure that the right systems are in place to support people over the arc of their lifetime.

Meet Lauren

Lauren has a bright future. She graduated from high school and is working towards an associate degree in animal science, her long-time passion. She wants to work more and save for her future, but she can't. "I have to constantly monitor the account to make sure I am not working too much so that I can keep all my benefits. The support is what makes it possible for me to work, but if I do work then I could lose my support." Lauren wants to save for a car, a house, and retirement. The Arc's work is necessary so that Lauren can one day lead the life she wants.



PROVIDE SUPPORT THAT LETS US THRIVE

Over 25 years ago, the dream of a full life in the community was further realized when the US Supreme Court expanded access to services outside of institutions in *Olmstead v. L.C.* The Arc played a leading role in strategic legal efforts to influence the court. As a result, more avenues opened for people with disabilities to control personal resources, participate in decision-making, receive services in the community, and be treated with dignity—just like everyone else.

The *Olmstead* decision represented a dramatic step forward in disability rights, but its promise is still not the reality for all people with disabilities. In 2023, there were nearly 700,000 people on waiting lists to receive Medicaid-funded support—72% of which are people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Some have been waiting for more than a decade. Barriers to services include a severe shortage of DSPs to deliver essential community-based services.



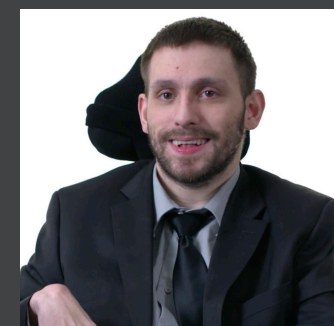
Let's Build A Just Future

We want to have enough DSPs to provide the help our community needs across the arc of their lifetime. Let's do more to support the self-determination of people with disabilities and their families. The Arc's chapters employ tens of thousands of DSPs across the country, but lawmakers must invest in the system, wages, and training to ensure that their role is respected and valued.

Meet Bryan & Dave

Dave is Bryan's only DSP and has been his primary caregiver since Bryan's mother passed away. As Bryan puts it:

"Dave has been working 12-14 hours a day. He helps me eat and get out of bed, and with pretty much all the things I do, like traveling, exercising, and meeting up with friends. We also go to work together. My job is primarily on the phone, and I have a speech impediment. He knows me and how I communicate so well because he's been with me consistently. Now Dave needs to leave for a higher paying job. Most DSPs make between \$11 and \$13 per hour. I've been searching for a new DSP for an entire year—I don't have a replacement for Dave, and I have ten days left. The problem is simple: we don't pay direct support professionals enough."

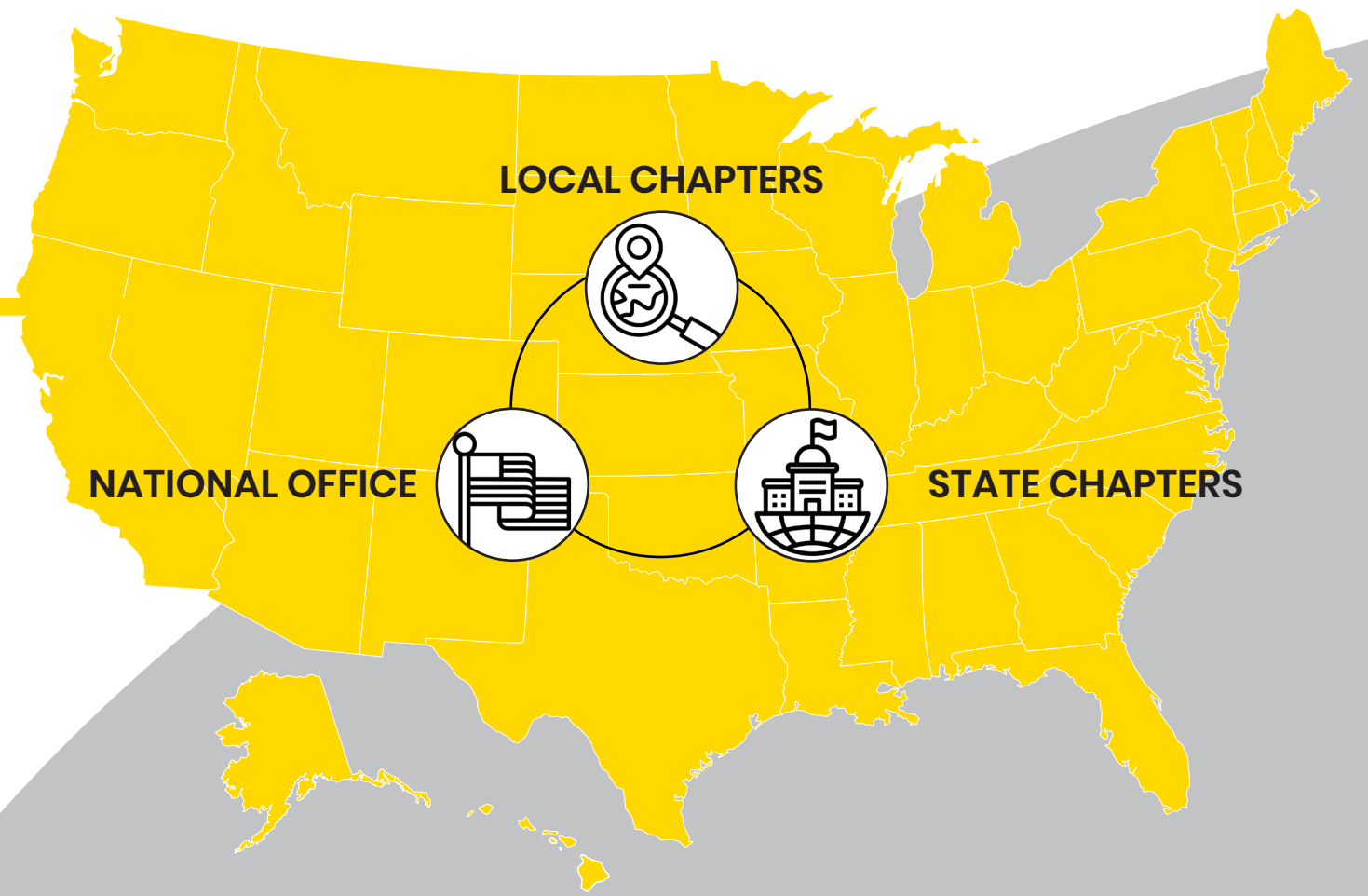




In the 1940s, parents and families gathered at kitchen tables around the country and decided that their children with disabilities would not be discarded by society. Groups of those parents gathered in Minneapolis, MN in 1950 to form the organization that we know today as The Arc.

OUR NETWORK IS OUR POWER

The Arc is a nationwide movement to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities and their families.



75 years later, The Arc is in communities across the country.

Local chapters provide the services, support, and advocacy families need today.

State and national offices continue our fight at the state and federal level to deliver more opportunities tomorrow.

THE FUTURE OF DISABILITY RESTS ON OUR SHOULDERS

The Arc is here and will remain here to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their loved ones over the arc of their lifetimes.

The Arc impacts people young and old, and is paving the way for future generations.



TOGETHER, WE WILL
END EXCLUSION OF
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.



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