



The Arc of New Mexico 2017 Legislative Priorities

The Arc of New Mexico is a nationally affiliated, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality of life of individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages by advocating for equal opportunities and choice in where and how they learn, live, work, play and socialize.

Randy Costales is the Executive Director. The Arc provides state-funded guardianship services, lifetime planning, and training in areas such as legislative advocacy, alternatives to guardianship and, maneuvering through the state's service system for people with developmental disabilities and their families.

1. **Maintain Services** –

Issue: Medicaid continues to be the crucial source of funding for people with disabilities that allows them to live in their communities with the supports and services they need. Any reduction in the state appropriation or even a failure to appropriate sufficient dollars will result in a loss of services and a corresponding reduction in the individual's quality of life.

Position: **Maintain current services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.**

2. **Waiting List** –

Issue: Individuals with developmental disabilities continue to apply for services and then be placed on a waiting list (called the Centralized Registry by the Department of Health). People should not have to wait for services that are important to their ability to live and participate in their communities in a safe and fulfilling manner.

A. **Position:** **Protect the current DD Waiver appropriation and add new dollars to serve more people.**

B. **Position:** **Protect the state general funded programs and add new dollars to serve more people.**

C. **Position:** **Continue to support dollars in the DoH budget for flexible funding programs.**

3. **Guardianship Services** –

Issue: The funding for legal assistance and training for families seeking guardianship of a family member is not adequate to meet the need. Furthermore, the funding for corporate guardianship services no longer meets the need and a waiting list for services exists.

Position: **Support the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council's requested budget.**

4. **Restraint and Seclusion** –

Issue: Students in special education are frequently controlled and disciplined by being inappropriately restrained and placed in seclusion.

Position: **Support efforts to stop this practice in schools and require training for school staff.**

5. **ABLE Act**

Issue: The New Mexico Legislature passed the Accounts for Persons with Disabilities Act (ABLE) during the 2016 legislative session. No appropriation was made for the implementation of the program.

Position: **Introduce legislation requesting an appropriation for the State Treasurer's office to implement the program.**

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