



Draft Agreement to pursue affiliation with The Arc United States

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to assist the prospective local chapter with their pursuit of affiliation with The Arc United States. In special cases where a prospective chapter is created in a region where a local chapter already exist Article 1 Section 2 of The Arc of Louisiana bylaws state that "...More than one local chapter shall be permitted to serve the same geographic area, with the approval of the existing chapter of this association and the board of directors of The Arc of Louisiana."

Mission Statement

The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes.

Core Values & Guiding Principles

People First

The Arc believes that all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are defined by their own strengths, abilities, and inherent value, not by their disability.

Equity

The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities are entitled to the respect, dignity, equality, safety, and security according to other members of society, and are equal before the law.

Community

The Arc believes that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities belong in the community and have fundamental moral, civil, and constitutional rights to be fully included and actively participate in all aspects of society.

Self-determination

The Arc believes in self-determination and self-advocacy. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities, with appropriate resources and supports, can make decisions about their own lives and must be heard on issues that affect their well-being.

Diversity

The Arc believes that society in general and The Arc in particular benefit from the contributions of people with diverse personal characteristics (including but not limited to race, ethnicity, religion, age, geographic location, sexual orientation, gender and type of disability)

Participatory Democracy

The Arc acts to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their parents, siblings, family members and other concerned members of the public have meaningful opportunities to inform and guide the direction of the organization’s advocacy, including determining policy and positions on important issues. The Arc strives for diversity in its leadership, as well as in all facets of the work of the organization.

Visionary Leadership

The Arc leads by articulating a positive vision for the future of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and catalyzes public and private support in realization of that vision through carefully planned and well-executed goals, strategies, and actions.

Public Interest

The Arc represents the public interest, supporting and acting with and on behalf of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families regardless of the type of disability or membership in The Arc.

Collaboration

The Arc works with individuals, organizations, and coalitions in a collaborative fashion. The Arc values and promotes effective partnerships between volunteer and staff leadership at all levels of the organization.

Transparency, Integrity and Excellence

The Arc conducts its business with integrity, accountability, and open, honest, and timely communication. The Arc is committed to quality and excellence in all it does.

By signing this agreement the prospective chapter agrees to abide by the mission, core values, and guiding principles of The Arc United States and the existing local chapter agrees to share their geographic region with the prospective chapter. The prospective chapter must become affiliated with The Arc U.S. within the year for this agreement to remain active.

Prospective Chapter Executive Director

The Arc of Louisiana President / Date

Current Local Chapter Executive Director