



**The Arc New Mexico
Legislative Priorities 2020
Approved by The Arc NM Board of Directors
10/19/2019**

Legislative Priorities are listed in order of importance

1. Wage increase for the workforce providing supports to individuals with I/DD through a rate increase for providers.

The recommendations of the rate study for the DD Waiver should be fully funded to assure quality services. Any increase in provider rates should include an increase of wages for direct support staff. The Arc NM considers the increase of wages for direct support staff in the DD Waiver system as the top priority in this legislative year.

2. Reduction of Wait List/ Increased Services while waiting:

A resource allocation should be made to reduce the waitlist. The Arc NM considers the reduction of the wait list into one of the two existing waivers the second priority in this legislative year.

Individuals eligible for Centennial Care community benefits should be receiving the full range of services for which they are eligible.

The Support Waiver should be implemented with the caveat that anybody allocated to the support waiver should retain their position on the wait list for one of the two existing waivers.

3. Guardianship rate increases and Supported Decision Making:

A rate increase of between 15% to 20% to corporate guardianship programs is required to offset the higher costs of services related to the guardianship reforms including recruiting guardians who can be quickly certified and retaining guardians once they receive certification.

A Task Force should be convened to study Supported Decision Making alternatives to guardianships.

4. Justice for individuals with disabilities:

Law enforcement officers and other criminal justice professionals should be trained on interactions with individuals with I/DD and/or mental illness when interacting as suspects, victims or witnesses.

Victims of sexual assault with I/DD should have access to trained trauma and disability informed counselors.

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Reforms in pre-trial procedures need to be implemented to protect all victims of sexual assault, but especially children and incapacitated adults, from repeated/ inappropriate questioning by defense attorneys. The Arc NM supports legislature to this end but would prefer that language of the provision separate out children from adults with IDD or instead use the language incapacitated adults for individuals who have been adjudicated to have incapacity (including senior citizens and individuals with other disabilities that impacts capacity).

5. Community employment for individuals with IDD

Rate increase (see number 1) to fund employment supports.

Incentives to expand provider services in underserved counties.

Incentives for agencies with a high percentage of staff certified as a CESP or through ACER training.

6. Mental Health Access:

Increase in mental health crisis services including in-care patient services.

Increase in capacity of hospitals and treatment programs to serve individuals with developmental disabilities.

Individuals with disabilities associated with mental health, including the homeless or near homeless and those who are incarcerated should have full access to mental health services. This includes therapy, case management, health care coordination and treatment guardians.

For People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities