



Advocacy and Services for People with Disabilities
Oneida-Lewis Chapter NYSARC

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PHOTO RELEASE

**The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter Visits Albany To
Urge Policy Makers to Reconsider 6% Cut to the Medicaid Budget**

Utica, NY – On Wednesday, March 6 a group of staff, board members, family members and people with developmental disabilities from The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC, traveled to Albany urging policy makers to reconsider the 6% cut to the Medicaid budget.

The group spoke to Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney, Assemblyman Anthony Brindisi, and Senator Joseph Griffo, as well as representatives from Assemblyman Marc Butler and Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush's offices.

"Without The Arc, the over 2,000 men, women and children served throughout the two counties would be without the valuable and integral programs and services impacting their health, well-being and integration into the community," said Rosemary Spriggs, vice president of policy and planning.

The Arc has been a dedicated and committed partner of New York State for 60 years, providing a range of services including residential, employment, service coordination, and programs for children to seniors. The agency is now asking that policy makers seriously consider the consequences of what the suggested budget cut of 6% would mean to The Arc, and the local economy.

The \$120 million cut to the Office of People with Development Disabilities directed at non-profit human service agencies as proposed by the Governor, would have an impact that is far and wide. Agencies may face potential for layoffs that will create critical staff shortages and fewer services - or no services - for persons with disabilities.

This is not the only cut that has threatened the agency. Not-for-profit agencies like The Arc have already taken more than \$350 million, or close to 9%, in cuts over the last two years. Many agencies will not survive these cuts. For the Arc, their financial and programmatic innovations will help them through this tough time.

"This cut will hurt and will take time for us to recover. But, we are a strong agency with a great staff and we will get through this together and continue providing quality services," said Karen Korotzer, chief executive officer at The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter. "It's important to remember that the people we support at The Arc do not recover - they have life-long disabilities and are reliant on agencies like our own for a lifetime of supports. Without our assistance, their health, well being, and lives will be in danger! It's time for us all to take a stand for people with disabilities."

The Arc is asking that community members urge our Governor to take advantage of any available revenue, including revenue allowed by State/Federal agreements, and current proposals from NYSARC, in order to mitigate these cuts and the damage it will do to the persons of Oneida and Lewis counties.

Visit the agency's website at www.thearcolc.org and click on the "Call to Action" link to access letters and contact information for your local representatives in New York State.

For more information about how you can get involved, please call The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter at 315.272.1529.

The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter, NYSARC is a non-profit human services agency which provides advocacy and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Oneida and Lewis counties.

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