



## COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:

**Engagement and Comfort during the COVID-19 Pandemic**  
**The Arc Maryland****LOCATION:** Statewide**FUNDING:** \$85,000; \$28,333 match**GOALS**

**Council Goal:** Children and adults with developmental disabilities meaningfully participate in all facets of community life, and are valued and supported by their communities.

**Council Objective:** Increase access to community-based services and supports.

**Goals of Initiative:** Support people with developmental disabilities, families, and provider agencies to continue to engage with peers during a period of social distancing and isolation caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**OVERVIEW**

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating unprecedented responses by federal, state, and local governments that impact the lives of all Marylanders, including people with developmental disabilities and their families. This time-limited demonstration project provides funds to community-based provider organizations statewide to implement projects that fill gaps in services, for people with developmental disabilities and their families, due to COVID-19. As a result, more organizations will identify effective strategies to ensure people with developmental disabilities and their families continue to remain engaged during this required period of social distancing and isolation, remain as calm as possible, and alleviate anxiety.

**STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES**

- Provide small grants to community-based provider organizations to:
  - Respond to the emerging needs of individuals with developmental disabilities who are impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.
  - Build and maintain community capacity to support the short-term and long-term needs of individuals with developmental disabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Develop a report about populations served, community based activities, and lessons learned from community organizations who are responding to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and family members, to guide future disaster preparedness efforts.

**OUTCOMES**

- Inform systems change efforts for future disaster preparedness and emergency response in Maryland and other states.
- More people with developmental disabilities and their families receive the services and supports they need to continue social engagement with peers during a required time period of social distancing and isolation.