



COMMUNITY SUPPORTS:

Engagement and Connection during the COVID-19 Pandemic

The Arc Maryland

LOCATION: Statewide

| **FUNDING:** \$135,000; \$45,000 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.

Goal of Initiative: People with developmental disabilities remain engaged and connected during the extended period of social distancing and isolation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

OVERVIEW

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council, in partnership with The Arc Maryland, is providing another \$135,000 in small grants to providers so that people with developmental disabilities remain engaged and connected. Provider organizations will purchase technology equipment, such as computers, tablets, and assistive technology and subscriptions, such as Zoom, virtual fitness classes, and virtual games, to help people with developmental disabilities remain engaged and connected to their family, friends, work, school, and the community during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is a continuation of the demonstration project started in March of 2020 that provided \$85,000 to providers to support 2,946 people with developmental disabilities in 21 of the 24 Maryland counties.

STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

Provide small grants to community-based provider organizations to:

- Purchase technology equipment, such as computers, tablets, and assistive technology and subscriptions, such as Zoom, virtual fitness classes, and virtual games.
- Collect stories of how the small grants engaged and connected people with developmental disabilities to their community, work, school, family, and friends.

OUTCOMES

More people with developmental disabilities are engaged and connected to their family, friends, work, school, and the community during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.