



Engagement and Connection during COVID

The Arc Maryland

Location: Statewide

Funding: \$135,000 | \$45,000 match

GOAL

Help people with developmental disabilities stay active and connected to other people while they are home during COVID.

SUMMARY

To stay safe and healthy during COVID, we have to stay away from other people. Keeping this social distance has changed our lives in many ways. We have not been able to participate in many of the activities we usually do. Most people have not been able to go to work. We do not get to spend time with our friends and families. People can feel lonely when this goes on for a long time. This can be unhealthy.

This project will give small grants to service providers. They will use the money to buy equipment for the people they support. The equipment will help people with developmental disabilities stay active and connected to other people during COVID.

The Council is partnering with The Arc Maryland on this project. This continues work started in 2020 that helped 3,000 people with developmental disabilities in 21 Maryland counties.

ACTIVITIES

- Provide small grants to community service providers to buy people they support computers and tablets, like iPads. This will make it possible for people to do things like:
 - Take fitness, cooking, and art classes.
 - Visit with friends and family using programs like Zoom.

- Collect stories of how the small grants helped people with developmental disabilities stay involved with their:
 - community,
 - work,
 - school, and
 - family and friends.

OUTCOMES

During and after COVID, people with developmental disabilities are:

- less isolated,
- more connected with family, friends, work, school, and the community, and
- better supported.