

ADA 30th Anniversary

On July 26, 2020 marked the 30th Anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This landmark legislation was signed by President George H.W. Bush and was crucial to giving people with disabilities the rights and opportunities for access that other citizens have long enjoyed. The law prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in access to jobs, activities, businesses, transportation, schools and all areas open to the general public and ensures individuals with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else.

As we celebrate this 30 year milestone, it is still important to make sure that in addition to access, that inclusive practices are also employed to prevent any seclusion or segregation of those with intellectual disabilities. The Administration for Community Living, The Office of Civil Rights, Disability Rights and Arc locations across the state work closely to ensure equal access and defend the rights of those with disabilities.

At the local level, The Arc of NEPA, will now be a contracted employee to provide Include Me Program Specialists to area schools to ensure that inclusive practices start at a young age for those with



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. This program, in its 10th year with The Arc of PA has proven data that demonstrates that starting at an early age with an inclusive school setting provides a better outcome for inclusion throughout life, including gainful employment. The Arc of NEPA also provides supported employment and job coaching with staff certified in Discovery. These program opportunities further the mission of the ADA into the future, where jobs and housing are crucial areas that need to be addressed.

Below is the timeline and attached is a picture.

But maybe we can feature pics of consumers doing every -day things in the community made possible by the ADA, such as working with a job coach, entering a handicap accessible van or on a ramp, enjoying an activity in the community like at a playground or fishing spot. I don't know what you have on file or if they are doing something recently.

