

Annual Report



In 2022, The Arc Minnesota 's Program Team began using Results Based Accountability (RBA) Performance Measures to assess:

- How much we did?
- How well we did?
- Whether anyone is better off?

These metrics help us track program deliverables, monitor outcomes, and ensure we are meeting the needs of our stakeholders statewide.

In 2023, we began learning more about the broad scope of RBA and how it can be used to guide our work in research, data collection, work planning, evaluation, outcome measurement, and reporting. We have applied for funding to continue to enhance team members' RBA training with the goal of improving our data collection processes and standards.

Housing

Our Housing team helps people with disabilities find affordable, accessible housing in their community. We connect people with resources that help support their housing long-term.

In 2023, our team fielded nearly 2,250 emails and phone calls about housing programs and services.

We helped 450 people move into homes of their own, including:

- 162 through Housing Stabilization Services
- 26 through Alternative Care Waiver
- 189 through Crisis Housing Assistance
- 73 through Housing Access Services (current contract year)

This marks a slight increase over the number of people we supported in 2022.



Public Policy

We work with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their supporters, to change laws and improve systems, based on what we believe is important.

In 2023, the Public Policy Team facilitated:



- 140 bill co-sponsors (154% increase from 2022)
- 55 letters of support submitted for bills that are important to The Arc Minnesota stakeholders
- 76 lobbying meetings and events
- 22 committee hearings featuring The Arc Minnesota’s priority bills
- 82% of testifiers have lived experience
- 18 new stakeholders became involved in supporting our legislative advocacy efforts
- 4 action alerts and opportunities for engagement in legislative advocacy

- 890 people educated or informed about policy priorities through events hosted/co-hosted by The Arc Minnesota

Finance

Total earned revenue:

\$4,857,904

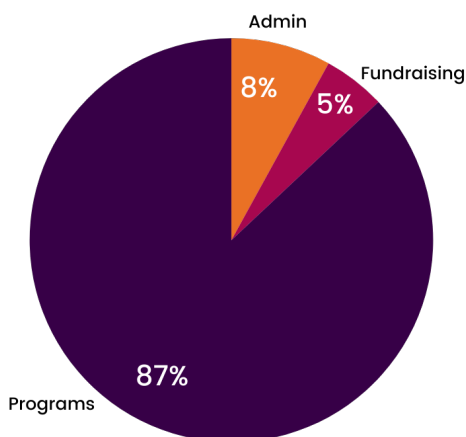
Total donor support:

\$1,508,214

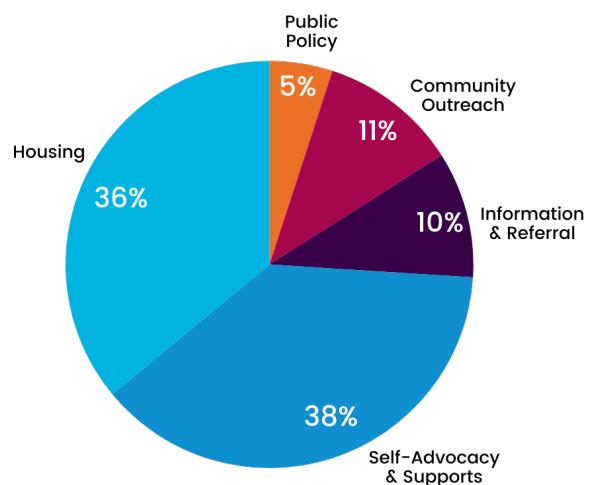
Total expenses:

\$6,356,077

Organizational Spending:



Programmatic Spending:



Statewide Grants & Initiatives

In 2023, The Arc Minnesota secured nearly \$2 million in grants and contracts that help us continue or begin new mission-based programs and services statewide. This funding supports our work in the areas of crisis prevention, disability justice, employment, health equity, housing, self-advocacy, and systems transformation:

Crisis Housing Assistance Program provides flexible funds to help people with a serious mental illness remain in their homes while seeking treatment in a licensed facility for up to 90 days (about three months). Funds can be used to pay for current rent, utilities, garbage, water/sewer and phone. The program helps shed light on serious mental illness among individuals with IDD and raises awareness about other ways The Arc Minnesota can help during crisis.

Minnesota Inclusion Initiative grant provides funds to self-advocacy groups and organizations across the state that work with people who have disabilities. The funding is for projects designed and led with self-advocates to enhance inclusion in their communities. Projects can focus on inclusion in many areas, including employment, voter participation, affordable housing, access and universal design, and much more.

Minnesota Microgrant Partnership provides small grants to Minnesotans who have disabilities to support their personal goals related to housing and employment. The microgrants are available to disabled persons statewide, with a focus on reaching people from underrepresented and culturally specific communities.

Peer-to-Peer Mentoring program helps people with disabilities and their trusted supports navigate employment options. Peer mentors provide encouragement, job resources, and networking to help people thrive in the workforce. Family mentors provide information and assistance to other trusted supporters who are helping a family member navigate the transition from subminimum wage work to competitive, integrated employment.

Quality Assurance program promotes person-directed services, fosters community connectedness, and supports improvements to the service system by providing training, education, and via community initiatives. The focus of this program is on building self-advocacy skills, systems transformation, and supporting the disability justice movement alongside disabled leaders who help lead this work.

Regional Quality Councils focuses on improvements to services and support for Minnesotans with IDD statewide. Council members include disabled people, trusted supporters, service providers, and county and state agency representatives. Together, these councils make recommendations to state agencies, legislative leaders, and other key decision-makers regarding disability services and support. justice movement alongside disabled leaders who help lead this work.



Individual Microgrant



464

microgrant applications received



323

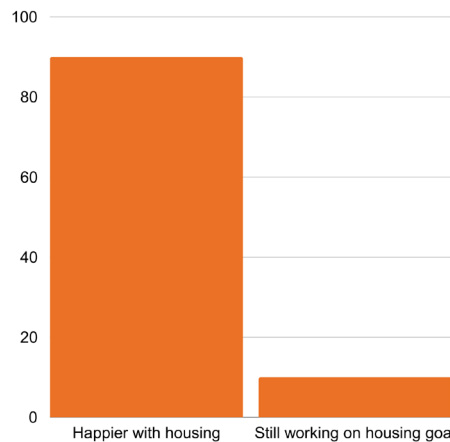
microgrants awarded



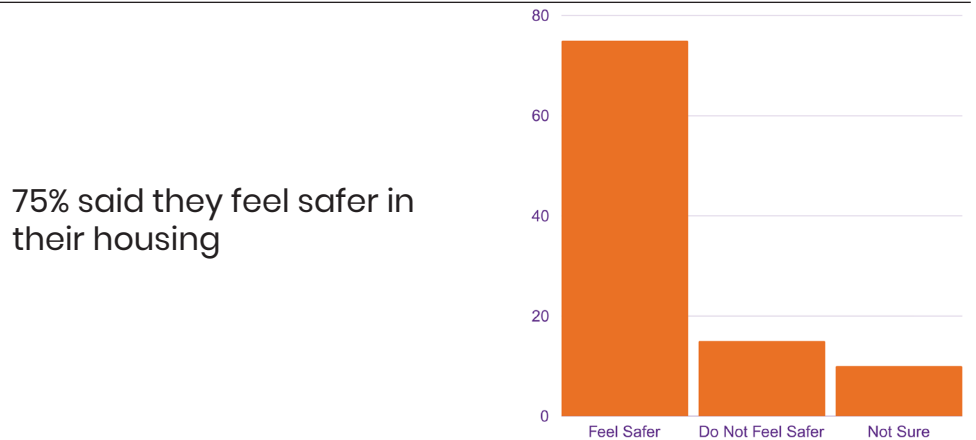
\$1200

average microgrant award

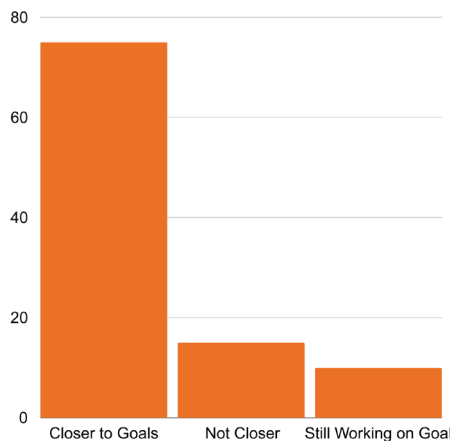
- Rated 4.85/5 when asked “how would you rate the application process?”
- Rated 4.9/5 when asked “how would you rate your experience with staff?”
- Rated 4.9/5 when asked “what is your overall satisfaction with the program?”
- 100% of respondents would recommend the program to their family and friends.



90% of survey respondents said they are happier with their housing because of the grant



75% said they feel safer in their housing



85% said they are closer to their employment goals because of the grant

Self-Advocacy

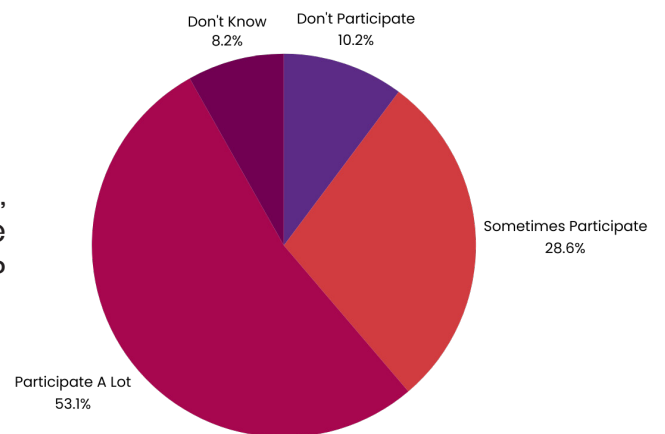
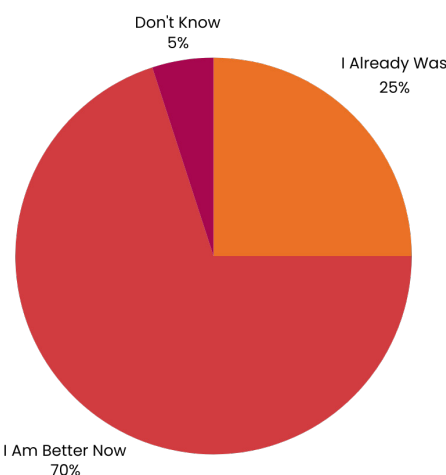
Alongside disabled leaders, The Arc Minnesota staff and volunteers promote human rights and disability justice. Through self-advocacy groups and events, this program helps strengthen connections between disabled people across the state and build power within the IDD community to promote and advocate for change. This program helps people develop leadership skills to become involved in systems change and create a more inclusive society.

- 823 people participated in self-advocacy programming - a 123% increase
- 23 emails were sent about self-advocacy opportunities and networking events with a 42% open rate
- 365 Social Media Posts about self-advocacy opportunities and networking events were shared with 74,101 impressions and 2,313 engagements
- 225 self-advocacy meetings, events, and trainings about self-advocacy and self-direction across our regions increased referrals by 88.6% over 2022



- 100% of materials, resources, trainings, educational events co-created with people who have disabilities
- 96% of people surveyed indicated that self-advocacy events were accessible
- 97% of people surveyed indicated that resources and information was accessible

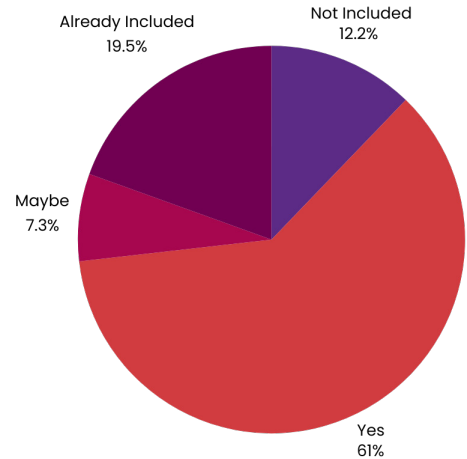
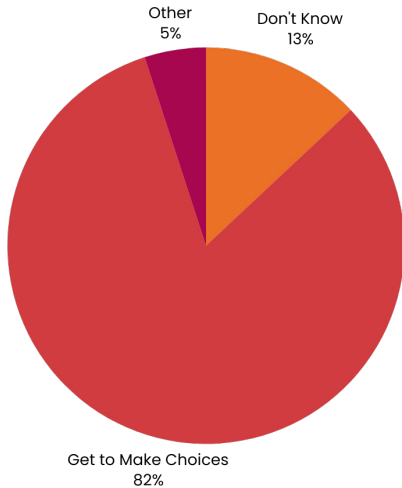
Since connecting with our self-advocacy team, how often do you participate in efforts to make Minnesota better for people with disabilities?



Since connecting with our self-advocacy team, are you better at advocating for yourself?

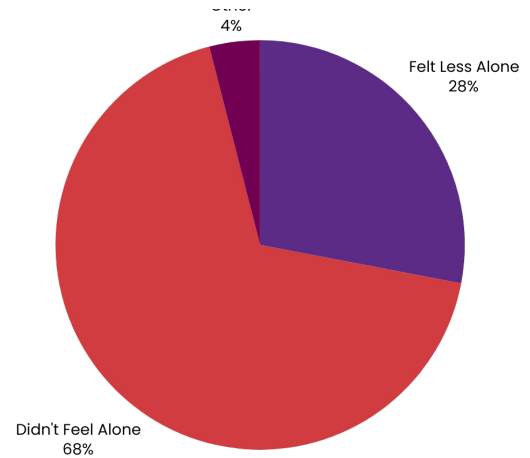
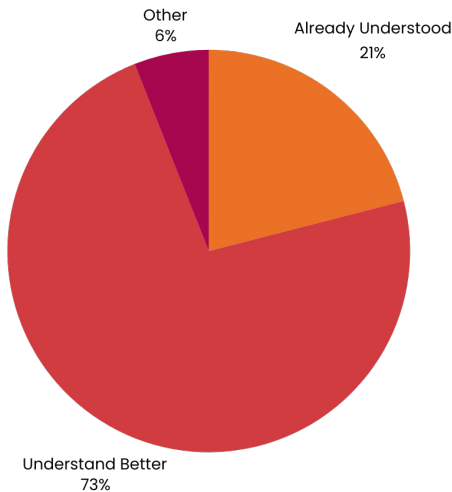
Self-Advocacy

Since connecting with our Self-Advocacy team, do you feel more included in your community?



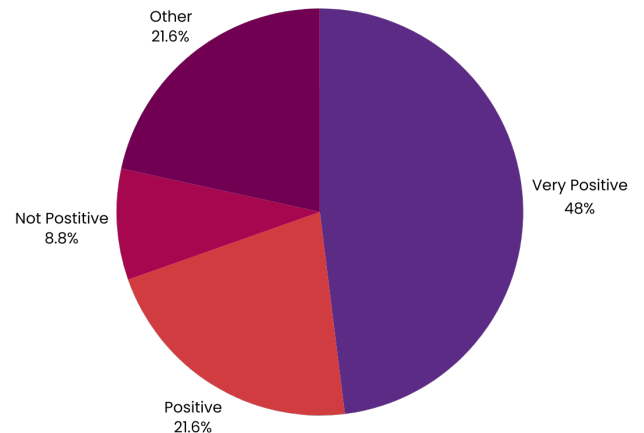
Since connecting with our Self-Advocacy team, are you able to make informed choices?

Since connecting with our Self-Advocacy team, do you feel less alone?



Since connecting with our Self-Advocacy team, do you feel like you understand your rights better?

Since connecting with our Self-Advocacy team, how well do you understand which services and supports are available to you?



Community Engagement & Outreach

The Arc Minnesota's Community Engagement & Outreach Team builds relationships and creates connections with stakeholders across the state. These relationships help raise awareness about topics that are important to Minnesotans with IDD and their trusted supporters and help build collective power.

In 2023, we hosted or participated in 631 events that reached nearly 6892 people statewide. Additionally, we:

- Supported 29 self-advocates in new leadership roles
- Fostered new collaborations with 21 BIPOC-led community-based organizations Fostered new collaborations with 8 community-based organizations serving the LGBTQIA community
- Shared 1342 social media posts that reached 5094 people - an 87.2% increase over 2022 Increased regional Facebook group membership to 596 people

100% of people surveyed indicated that:

- Events were accessible to and for them
- They felt welcomed, engaged, and connected during events hosted by The Arc
- They would recommend The Arc to someone else in their community

After participating in an Arc-lead training:

- 100% of people surveyed had a better understanding of their options for their life and the tools they need to take action
- 100% of people surveyed indicate being more prepared to make their own decisions and life choices

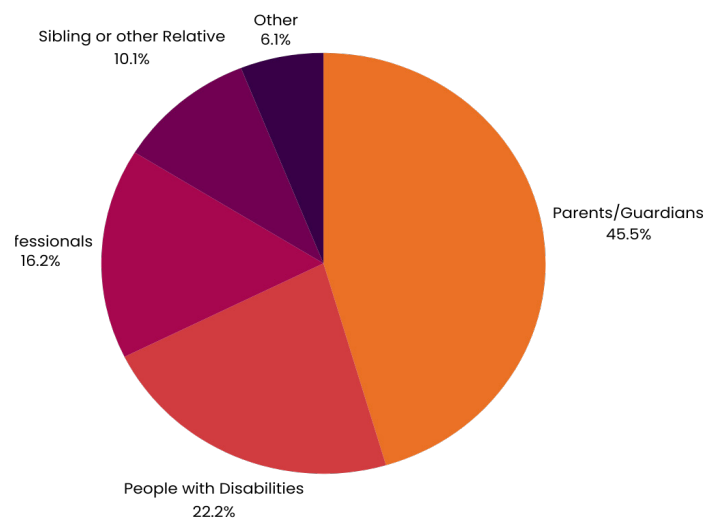
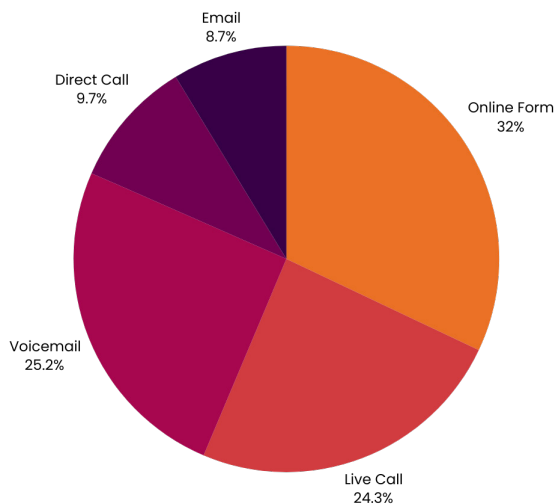


Since connecting with The Arc Minnesota in their region, 85.71% of people surveyed feel more connected in their community

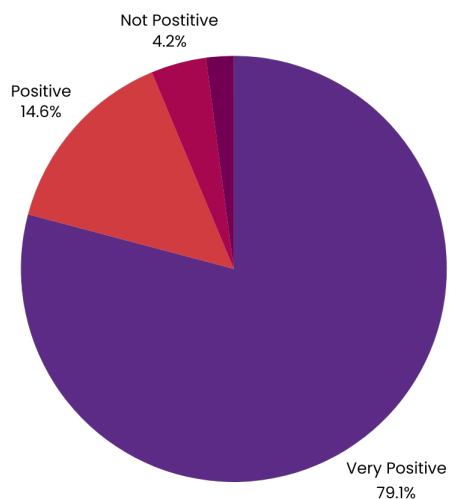
Help Desk

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families have always been able to call The Arc Minnesota and talk with staff about their needs. The Help Desk is a new way for staff to work with people with IDD and their families to get the information and resources they need. In 2023, our Help Desk:

- Fielded 1460 calls
- Call volume increased by 23% over 2022
- Supported individuals from 68 counties – a 38% increase over 2022
- Made 166 internal referrals to other Arc programs & services
- Increased referrals by 88.6% over 2022



Staff discussed 1739 unique issues across the Social Determinants of Health, charting the LifeCourse Domains, and The Arc Minnesota priorities.



When asked about their experience with The Arc Minnesota's Help Desk:

79% of survey respondents indicated their experience was positive

Equity and Justice

The Equity and Justice Committee created organizational goals to center equity, justice, and intersectionality in all facets of our work. Here are some of the highlights!

Organizational Goals:

1

Co-create environments where all people are welcome, and their access needs are met

- Started a plain language project to make sure our communications are accessible for everyone
- Began translating our most used resources into the four most common languages in Minnesota
- Improved interview accessibility by providing questions in advance in the chat
- Added a statement supporting diversity and inclusion to all organizational job listings
- Hired experts in web accessibility to make sure our websites are easy for everyone to use

2

Learn from people who have diverse lived experiences in ways that value their expertise, time, and capacity

- Equity and Justice Director led 24 discussions on Disability Justice with self-advocates
- Partnered with CentraCare to deliver Safe Space trainings across the state, reaching 176 individuals to support the LGBTQIA+ community
- Aired a segment on Telemundo to highlight our services to Spanish-speakers
- Engaged with the Somali community through a bi-monthly networking group for Somali parents
- Joined the Basilica of St. Mary's disability inclusion committee to support inclusivity in faith communities
- Held bi-monthly meetings with self-advocates to explore thoughts on Disability Justice

3

Use our platform to elevate the leadership of people with disabilities

- Ocean C Poet led a project with The Arc called "The Self Advocacy Artistic Movement," involving over 50 people workshops focused on advocacy, concluding with an art show displaying the work from the workshops
- Held a mini conference called Day of Learning, which was entirely led by people with disabilities
- 823 people joined our self-advocacy programs, which is a 123% increase over last year
- Organized 225 self-advocacy meetings, events, and trainings across our regions
- Held talks on ableism and Disability Justice, for 1,150 people and raised \$4,000. Created events and materials alongside people with disabilities

Equity and Justice

The Equity and Justice Committee created organizational goals to center equity, justice, and intersectionality in all facets of our work. Here are some of the highlights!

Organizational Goals:

4 Develop evaluative measures to monitor, track, and report progress towards our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Initiatives

- Developed 15 new ways to measure the success of our diversity and inclusion efforts
- Renewed our Affirmative Action plan to help us attract a diverse range of job candidates
- Director of Equity and Justice is being included in the on-boarding and orientation process for new hires
- The Grants team embraced learning and discussion about Community Centric Fundraising (CCF) principles

5 Support disability and justice leaders by fighting for systems and social change through public policy, legislative and grassroots advocacy, and allyship in justice movements

- Held monthly Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) trainings for all staff across the organization
- Established the Minnesota Coalition for Disability Wage Justice
- Connected with 60 LGBTQIA+ youth at the OutFront Teen Youth Summit
- Engaged with the LGBTQIA+ community at PRIDE festivals and the Trans Equity Summit, interacting with 1,469 people about our advocacy and services
- Helped 29 self-advocates assume new leadership roles and initiated partnerships with 29 diverse community organizations

