



LEGAL SERVICES PILOT PROGRAM

The Arc's mission is to advocate for the rights and full participation of all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Along with our network of members and chapters, we support and empower individuals and families, connect and inform individuals and families, improve support and service systems, influence public policy, increase public awareness, and inspire inclusive communities.

DID YOU KNOW?

People with IDD and their families face significant obstacles when seeking access to civil legal services. These challenges can include:

- Lack of knowledge about where to turn for help.
- Complicated intake processes, phone trees, and long holding times.
- An inability to take action on brief service or trainings.
- A lack of understanding about when a problem has a legal remedy.
- A lack of available resources for representation.
- An inability to read or write.
- Lack of access to computers.

NOWHERE TO TURN



The Arc of Spokane received funding to hire Stacie Siebrecht and conduct a civil legal services feasibility study.

To read the study, use the QR code or visit arc-spokane.org/legal-feasibility-study.

PROPOSAL

We request funding for a pilot program to create legal services provider locations in both Western and Eastern Washington for people with IDD and their families. These providers will enhance the referral process and coordination of services with existing partners in civil legal service providers and underrepresented community organizations. This initiative establishes a dedicated legal team consisting of coordinators, legal assistants, and attorneys, all working and specially trained to work with and reach out to individuals with IDD and their families.

FUNDING REQUEST: \$1.04 million

THE PROBLEM

People with IDD often have nowhere to turn when they experience legal barriers to accessing services and supports, impacting their ability to fully live their lives. For more information, read "Nowhere to Turn," a report providing insight and recommendations from a study on civil legal services for people with IDD.

People with IDD who also experience other types of discrimination, particularly BIPOC persons, and those with co-occurring disabilities like mental health or addiction, are even more impacted and further isolated from the systems that provide legal services.

In failing to purposefully target legal services to people with IDD, one of the highest need populations in our state, we are passively saying "no" to providing them with the individualized services they need to obtain and maintain employment, housing, education, government benefits, healthcare without discrimination, and to live their lives fully.