The Arc of North Carolina is a statewide advocacy and service organization working with and for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and their families for over 60 years. The Arc remains committed to supporting innovative policies and programs that build pathways to independence through quality education, employment, health, community living options, and civic engagement alongside nondisabled peers across the lifespan.

While our advocacy work represents the broad realities facing individuals with disabilities and their families, this Agenda represents specific policy priorities, reflective of immediate, critical needs and system changes for the 2019 Legislative Session adopted by our statewide, volunteer board of directors.

**Community Based Residential Services**

(1) Increase and Secure Group Home and other Community-Based Residential Funding. Increased and sustainable funding is needed to meet the needs of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) currently receiving or in need of residential services. The General Assembly has required the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), in conjunction with stakeholders, to develop a comprehensive plan for sustained operations of Group Homes in North Carolina. The Arc
supports action by the General Assembly and DHHS to make certain that a successful comprehensive plan and funding are established for Group Home residents in 2019. The Arc will advocate for recurring funding that will, at a minimum, keep its residents in their current residence and prevent the otherwise inevitable homelessness that is caused by lack of funding for those seeking residential services.

(2) Fund Additional Innovation Waiver Slots. Many of the Arc’s members are on a waiting list and more funding is needed to provide services and supports with either a full waiver slot or a hybrid slot that provides a smaller range of services – any level of service to those on the Waiting List will be an improvement. In the absence of any new hybrid slots, the I/DD community will advocate for at least 1,000 new full waiver slots.

Health

(3) Enact Safety Nets and Accountability with NC’s Medicaid Reform. The Arc will advocate and continue to emphasize the need for care management¹ and personal support services as well as a strong transition plan that will provide services and supports to more of those with I/DD who are on waiting lists. The Arc requests that the General Assembly and DHHS bolster the checks and balances on LME/MCOs so that individuals within the I/DD community do not fall through the cracks in NC’s ongoing transition to managed care.

(4) The creation of I/DD Tailored Plans requires legislative changes to General Statutes Chapter 122C, Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Act of 1985. The Arc will advocate that at a minimum, proposed changes should include:

---

¹ Care management requires navigation across multiple systems: health, long term services and supports, and social determinants of health.
a. Special recognition that those within the I/DD community will need early and regular navigational assistance with any transition to a Tailored Plan, and plans to accommodate such needs.

b. Provisions that take into account I/DD members who could be on both the Standard Plan and the Tailored Plan.

c. Uniform data collection within and between entities.

d. Expand the current pilot and permanently fund Primary Care Consultation Services to assist primary care providers to better serve individuals with I/DD without using unnecessary specialty care.

**Employment & Education**

(6) Bolster Transition Services to Meaningful Employment. The Arc supports the recommendations of the 2018 I/DD Study Committee that will improve and streamline the available services from school to life for those in the I/DD community. We request that legislators enact and appropriately fund these recommendations. The Arc will continue to work with legislators, DHHS, DPI, and Higher Education officials to improve and expand successful programs.

(7) Education Funding. The Arc will advocate for increased funding statewide for children within the I/DD community. Action is needed to increase this funding, especially given that approximately 60 public school systems and many public charter schools in North Carolina are underfunded with the current state allotment.

(8) Continue the work of the General Assembly’s I/DD Caucus. The Arc will continue to advise the Caucus and help educate legislators on the diverse needs of the I/DD community. The Arc commends the work
of this Caucus and will especially strive to provide practical solutions that can be implemented in communities around the State.

**Health Information Exchange**

(6) The June 2019 deadline for behavioral health providers who receive state funds (Medicaid, NC Health Choice, State Health Plan, etc.) to connect to NC HealthConnex should be delayed as recommended by the NC Health Information Exchange Connectivity Feasibility Study released on July 25, 2018, by the NC Department of Information Technology, the NC Department of Health and Human Services, and the State Health Plan.

**Guardianship**

(7) This item is pending Public Policy Committee and Board Approval.