

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



A NOTE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

For 65 years, The Arc of North Dakota has been a consistent advocate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Our Annual Report highlights both our daily efforts and the collective impact as a statewide network of advocates, partners, and community members.

Our local chapters operate independently across North Dakota but share the mission to champion the human rights of individuals with IDD and support their full inclusion in community life. Whether enhancing programs, supporting families, or advocating for policy changes, we are committed to ensuring access to essential services.

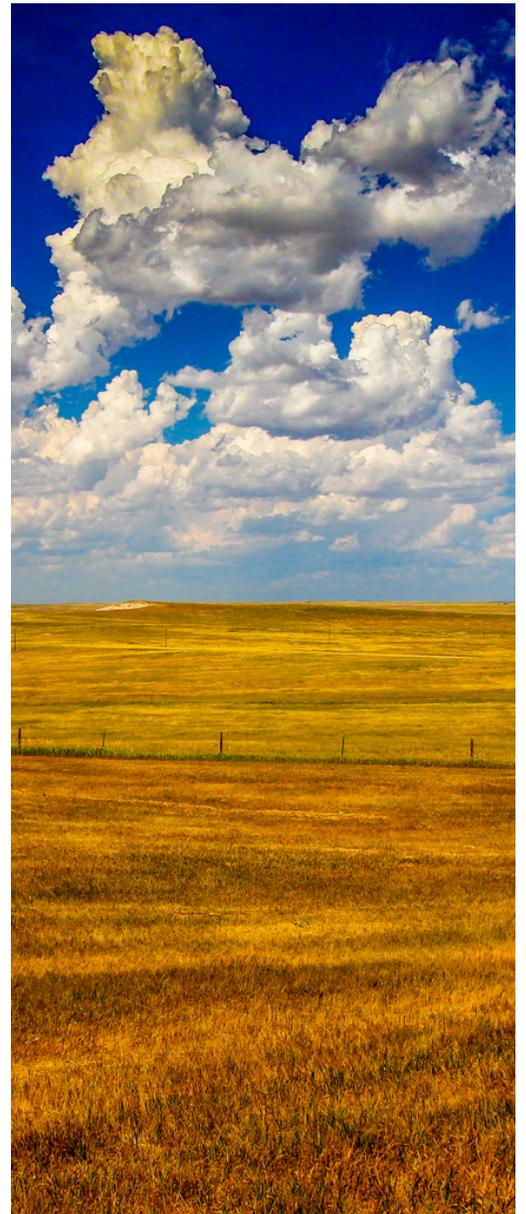
This year, the legislature presented key opportunities and challenges. As the leading voice on disability policy, we collaborated with families, partners, and leaders to amplify the voices of people with IDD and promote policies that protect rights, increase support, and lay a stronger foundation for the future. Our advocacy continues beyond sessions, influencing daily decisions impacting people with disabilities.

Thanks to our members, partners, donors, families, and especially the self-advocates who guide us. The progress in this report is everyone's achievement.

Together, we strive for a North Dakota where all individuals with disabilities can live, work, learn, and thrive in their chosen communities.

Kirsten Dvorak

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LEADERSHIP TEAM

Board of Directors

Nate Schlieff, President
Jennifer Eaton, Secretary/Treasurer
Patty Olson, Director
Elaine Linderman, Director
Ellen Dunn, Director
Caitlin Kemmer, Director

Staff

Kirsten Dvorak - Executive Director

OUR STORY

The Arc of North Dakota, founded in 1958 by families advocating for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), strives for greater opportunity, dignity, and inclusion. As a proud member of The Arc's national network, we benefit from access to research and a collective voice on disability issues.

Our independent chapters focus on ensuring individuals with IDD have access to necessary resources and support. We assist families in navigating systems and understanding their rights, empowering them to achieve positive outcomes. By collaborating with community partners, we promote environments that value inclusion and support.

Rooted in a belief in human dignity, we envision a North Dakota where every person with IDD is recognized for their strengths and fully included in their communities. For over 65 years, The Arc of North Dakota has worked to advance this vision, fostering opportunity, connection, and belonging.

DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY

Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol brought together self-advocates, families, and service providers from across North Dakota to amplify the voices of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The event highlighted the importance of visibility, shared experiences, and the collective effort to strengthen support for people with disabilities.

Attendees met with lawmakers to share stories and emphasize the need for strong support systems, inclusive communities, and effective policies. The Arc of North Dakota and our local chapters provided resources and space for meaningful conversations that helped legislators better understand the daily realities of individuals with IDD. This event remains a cornerstone of statewide advocacy—raising awareness of key issues, elevating lived experiences, and building relationships that shape North Dakota’s future.



TOP PHOTO: SELF-ADVOCATES GATHER IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA FOR DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY.

BOTTOM PHOTO: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KIRSTEN DVORAK WITH GOVERNOR ARMSTRONG AT THE CAPITOL.

KATY NEAS

The Arc of North Dakota was honored to welcome Katy Neas, CEO of The Arc of the United States, for a special visit to our state. Her time here reinforced the strong connection between our statewide work and the national movement supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

Katy met with self-advocates, families, chapter leaders, and state officials—including Governor Armstrong and members of his staff—to discuss Medicaid, disability services, and the challenges facing North Dakotans with IDD. She also delivered remarks during Disability Awareness Day at the Capitol, emphasizing the importance of strong community supports and coordinated advocacy.

Her visit brought renewed energy and affirmed the impact of The Arc of North Dakota’s work—showing how our experiences help shape national priorities and strengthen the nationwide Arc network.



*TOP PHOTO:
KATY NEAS MEETS WITH GOVERNOR
ARMSTRONG AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KIRSTEN DVORAK AT THE CAPITOL.*

*BOTTOM PHOTO:
KATY NEAS DELIVERS REMARKS DURING
DISABILITY AWARENESS DAY.*

LEGISLATIVE RECAP

This legislative session gave The Arc of North Dakota important opportunities to elevate the needs of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). As the state's leading voice on disability policy, we worked closely with lawmakers, state agencies, and families to ensure that Medicaid services, community supports, and disability-related issues remained priorities. Our advocacy focused on strengthening home- and community-based services, addressing workforce challenges, and improving long-term stability within the system. We also provided guidance on policies affecting education, guardianship, housing, and transportation. While not every priority advanced, the relationships and awareness built this session strengthened our position for future progress. Our legislative work continues year-round as we ensure the voices of individuals with IDD remain central in shaping North Dakota's policies.



PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ARC OF BISMARCK

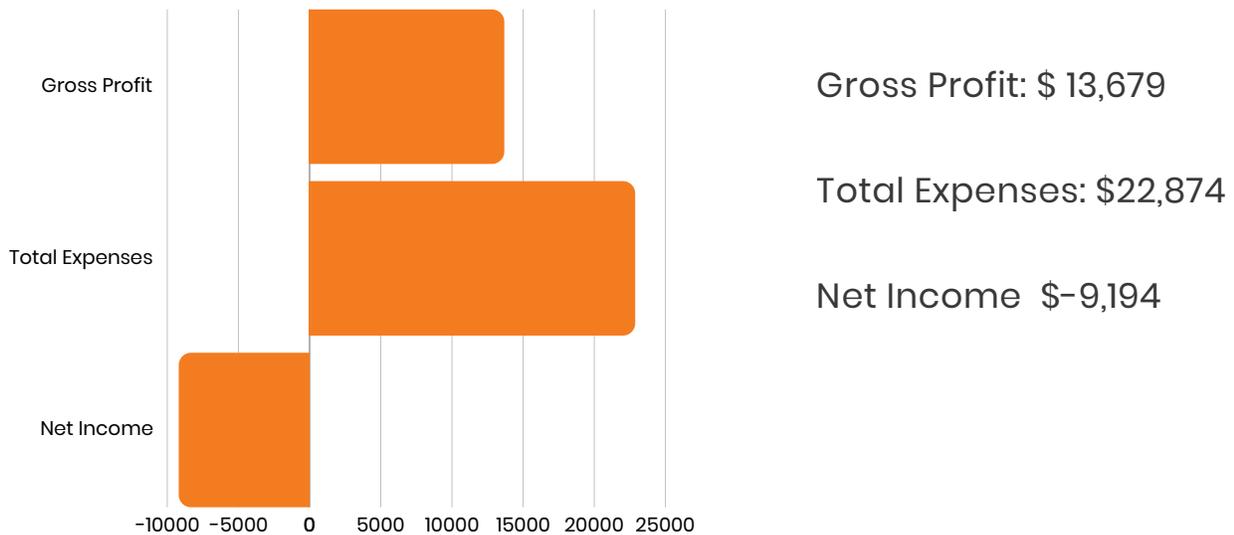
The Arc of North Dakota and The Arc of Bismarck are two separate, independent organizations that share a strong partnership grounded in a common mission to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Since 2014, our organizations have collaborated through a shared Executive Director to strengthen services, expand opportunities, and elevate the voices of people with disabilities across the Bismarck region and the state.

While The Arc of Bismarck focuses on local programming, community engagement, and direct support for individuals and families, The Arc of North Dakota leads statewide advocacy, systems work, and policy initiatives. This shared leadership model helps align our efforts while allowing both organizations to maintain their own governance structures, identities, and areas of focus.

Throughout the year, our partnership includes coordinated outreach, shared educational efforts, and joint public awareness initiatives that connect families with resources and strengthen inclusion across the community. The Arc of Bismarck's local insight, combined with The Arc of North Dakota's statewide perspective, creates a more responsive and effective support network for North Dakotans with IDD.

Although we operate independently, our collaboration—established in 2014—continues to blend local impact with statewide leadership, ensuring that individuals with IDD and their families benefit from strong community programs and a powerful voice in North Dakota's policy landscape.

PROFIT & LOSS-2024



Why Your Support Matters

Your support strengthens The Arc of North Dakota's mission to advocate for the rights and inclusion of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through chapter affiliation fees and donations, we expand our reach, elevate the voices of people with IDD, and ensure families across the state have access to strong advocacy and reliable resources.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE ARC OF NORTH DAKOTA
PROMOTES AND PROTECTS THE
HUMAN RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH
INTELLECTUAL AND
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTS THEIR
FULL INCLUSION AND
PARTICIPATION IN THE
COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THEIR
LIFETIME

The Arc of North Dakota Chapters

The Arc of Bismarck

1500 E Capitol Ave Ste 203

Bismarck, ND 58501-2001

Phone: (701) 222-1854

Email: executive_director@thearcofbismarck.org

The Arc of Cass County

215 University Dr N

Fargo, ND 58102-4639

Phone: (701) 293-8191

Email: arcadmin@arccassnd.org

The Arc of Dickinson

PO Box 1421

Dickinson, ND 58602-1421

Phone: (701) 483-4272

Email: arcdickinson@ndsupernet.com

The Arc. Upper Valley

1200 S Washington St

Grand Forks, ND 58201-4178

Phone: (701) 772-6191

Email: rhafner@arcuv.com

The Arc of North Dakota

PO Box 2081,

Bismarck, ND 58502

Phone: (701) 222-1854

Email: Director@arcofnd.org

