



**The Arc Jacksonville Launches New Three-Year Pilot Program For Individuals with Intellectual Differences and their Caregivers**

*Local nonprofit receives federal grant for more than \$996,000 to fund new programming in Jacksonville*

**Jacksonville, Fla. — December 1, 2022 —** The Arc Jacksonville today announced the launch of a three-year pilot program to aid individuals with intellectual differences who face the challenges of Alzheimer's disease and dementia on the First Coast, as well as their caregivers. *Specialized Aging Support — Dementia Services for People with Intellectual and Developmental Differences* has been made possible thanks to a \$996,000 federal grant from the Administration for Community Living (ACL). The new program launches in the spring of 2023 and will provide occupational therapy-based support for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences with or at high risk of Alzheimer's disease-related dementia (ADRD) who live alone or with a caregiver. Program services aim to extend independence through sensory, occupational and other wellness therapies, and provide respite for family and caretakers.

Grant funding will support caregiver training, aid in developing specific intervention methods to help manage dementia symptoms, provide screening for risk factors and offer therapeutic programming and activities for clients. This focus on caregiver education will provide family members with the skills and tools necessary for improved well-being and understanding of care.

Operating as a nonprofit organization, The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) to achieve their full potential and participate in an active community life. Arc programs serve adults with IDD from the transition period (ages 18-22) through the aging population. Through this program expansion, The Arc Jacksonville can reach individuals and families who may not already be receiving services.

"We work diligently every day to provide individuals of all abilities meaningful options to live, work and play," said Kari Bates, President & CEO of The Arc Jacksonville. "We are honored to have been awarded this grant to expand our services, focusing on life-long care and wellness for individuals living with IDD and their caregivers."

In collaboration with the National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities Dementia Practices (NTG) and the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville (DSAJ), The Arc



Jacksonville seeks to ensure individuals with IDD and their families have the tools and training necessary to offset the challenges of ADRD.

Additionally, the grant funds the creation of several new jobs at The Arc Jacksonville, including a certified occupational therapist, a program coordinator and direct support professionals.

“It is an honor to have an organization like The Arc Jacksonville working hard for individuals with intellectual differences in Florida’s 5th District,” said Congressman Al Lawson. “This grant will help support its current programming and allow them to expand to help even more people across our communities. I am immensely proud to have played a role in bringing this funding to Northeast Florida during my term in office.”

To learn more about this grant, The Arc Jacksonville, or to find support for yourself or someone you know, call 904-355-0156 or visit [arcjacksonville.org](http://arcjacksonville.org).

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### **About The Arc Jacksonville**

The Arc Jacksonville serves and advocates for individuals with intellectual and developmental differences to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life. Through incredible partnerships within the Northeast Florida community, The Arc Jacksonville, a local nonprofit, provides a full complement of residential, educational, training, work readiness, employment, mental health, and community inclusion initiatives.