



April 20, 2020

The Honorable Eric Holcomb
Governor
State House
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis IN 46204

Re: Joint Letter from The Indiana Council of Executive of The Arc (ICEArc) and INARF Urging Funding for Services to Hoosiers with I/DD

Dear Governor Holcomb,

Thank you for your leadership during these trying times. The past month has certainly not been easy and the coming months ahead will prove difficult for Hoosiers to adjust to a new “normal” and businesses to sort through the financial implications.

The Arc of Indiana is a state-wide not-for-profit organization that advocates for the issues important to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. We have 43 chapters across that state, many providing high quality, mission-driven services to Indiana’s most vulnerable Hoosiers. The Indiana Council of Executives of The Arc (ICEArc) includes 28 provider leaders of The Arc’s chapters that provide those services as well as a few non-Arc chapter providers who stand by our guiding principles and practice the same mission-driven approach to services.

INARF is the principal membership organization in Indiana representing providers of services to people with disabilities. Our 72 organizational members serve over 50,000 Indiana citizens annually and employ nearly 15,000 workers. INARF is committed to strengthening the system of services and supports for Hoosiers with disabilities.

Our members provide critical services and supports to thousands of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across our state. We are thrilled that the number of positive cases among those with I/DD are at a relatively low level at this current time. We credit those low numbers to you and other state leaders who took swift action to put in place safety precautions to decrease the spread of the virus.

As our members pivoted our services at your urging, many had to shut their doors and suspend services. Social distancing makes it difficult for us to carry out some of our residential services. Many of us are uncertain what the future holds once this crisis passes.

We have been in constant contact with the leadership as FSSA and the Division on Disability and Rehabilitation Services (DDRS). We appreciate the open communication and discussions we are having with our state leaders. We worked closely with leadership as they developed Appendix K to be submitted to CMS and are thankful for many of the provisions that allows for much needed flexibility in delivering essential services.

We were disappointed to learn on April 13, that the much needed financial components of Appendix K were not approved by the State Budget Agency and therefore puts every provider in jeopardy of being able to continue to serve our most vulnerable population as this crisis heads into its peak over the next few weeks.

Indiana was already struggling to attract and retain Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) due to a low average hourly rate of \$11.20. Our shortage of workers was already at a crisis level as the demand for services far exceeded our supply of workers. The demands on DSPs to provide the most personal and intimate of care is not one that should be over-looked as without them, many of our Hoosiers with I/DD would not be able to live on their own and their health and safety would be at great risk.

There were two key fiscal components in Appendix K we would request reconsideration of:

1. Temporarily increase rates for additional enhanced pay for staff and additional operating expenses incurred as a result of COVID-19.
2. Utilize the increased Federal Medicaid match to provide Retainer Payments for Providers. Providers who have scaled back or closed services need financial stability in order to open their doors again once this crisis passes.

We are fully aware of the financial issues facing our state's budget as we are facing financial crisis with our own budgets as well. We are making every effort we can to find ways to continue to provide services to those in our community who need us as we know without us their well-being is at substantial risk.

The State of Indiana is going to see additional federal dollars coming into the state to help ease the financial burden. We strongly encourage you to utilize some of those dollars to help care for our Hoosiers with intellectual and developmental disabilities as they truly depend on the state for their most essential needs.

Our fear is real. Some of our members are proud to be the local, community not-for-profit providers around the state that have relationships with community leaders to work together to have the best impact on the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. It is a true realization that without financial assistance, many of them are going to struggle to re-open their doors once this crisis passes and the number of not-for-profit providers will be decreased.

For our larger members, many do not qualify for the federal assistance afforded in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and the CARES Act and must rely solely on state funding. In addition, IDD services are funded solely through Medicaid, and INARF and ICEArc

reaffirm INARF's previous request that the enhanced federal Medicaid match be used for Medicaid services provided to people receiving those IDD services.

Many providers have had to close their doors temporarily. Although they are closed, they still have fixed costs, such as rent and utilities. In addition, the staff they have been forced to lay off will now receive unemployment benefits, paid for by the provider, despite their lack of revenue. Many states, including Illinois and Kentucky have already implemented retainer payments in order to offset some of the additional costs encumbered by these providers. We urge Indiana to do the same.

Finally, for those providers who provide residential services that must continue to serve this vulnerable population, we must provide a rate increase. This increase is vital to pay staff for overtime, hazard pay, re-training of staff that have changed service locations, and the purchase of Personal Protection Equipment. We are pleased to partner with FSSA and the Hoosiers Serving Hoosiers program to hire people who have been laid off and are interested in working in direct service. However, there is a cost to train new hires that is currently not reimbursable, and the increased federal match can be used to off-set that training cost. Not only will this assist with the Direct Support Professional staffing crisis, it will off-set the cost of unemployment benefits and potentially lower HIP enrollment, both to the fiscal benefit of the State.

Again, we appreciate all you are doing in this time of crisis. We do urge you to take action to help our most vulnerable Hoosiers, those with intellectual and developmental disabilities before essential providers go out of business and services become more limited to those that require them.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.



Steve Cook
President/CEO, INARF



Kim Dodson
CEO, The Arc of Indiana

Cc: Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch
Secretary Jennifer Sullivan
Zac Jackson
President Pro Tempore Rodric Bray
Speaker Todd Huston
Paul Peaper

INARF Members

Abilities Services, Inc.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

ADEC, Inc.
Bristol, IN 46507

Advocacy Links, LLC
Elkhart, IN 46514

Arc Opportunities, Inc. (dba: The
Arc of LaGrange County)
Howe, IN 46746

Benchmark Human Services
Fort Wayne, IN 46809

Bethesda Lutheran Communities,
Inc.
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Bona Vista Programs, Inc.
Kokomo, IN 46902

Bosma Enterprises
Indianapolis, IN 46278

Bridges of Indiana, Inc.
Carmel, IN 46032

Cardinal Services, Inc.
Warsaw, IN 46580

Caregiver - DSA
Greenfield, IN 46140

Carey Services, Inc.
Marion, IN 46953

Child Adult Resource Services, Inc.
Rockville, IN 47872

Cornerstone Associates, LLC
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Corvilla, Inc.
South Bend, IN 46628

Damar Services, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN 46241

Developmental Services, Inc.
Columbus, IN 47202

Dungarvin Indiana, LLC
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Easterseals Crossroads
Indianapolis, IN 46205

Easterseals Rehabilitation Center
Evansville, IN 47714

Evansville Association for the Blind
Evansville, IN 47710

First Chance Center
Paoli, IN 47454

FUTURES Case Management, LLC
LaPorte, IN 46350

Goodwill Industries of Northeast
Indiana, Inc.
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

Hillcroft Services, Inc.
Muncie, IN 47303

Hopewell Center, Inc.
Anderson, IN 46013

Houston Group Homes, Inc.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Huser SpecialCare
Indianapolis, IN 46226

INcare Solutions, LLC
Indianapolis, IN 46226

Indiana MENTOR
Indianapolis, IN 46240

In-Pact, Inc.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Insights Consulting, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN 46250

IPMG, Inc.
West Lafayette, IN 47906

Janus Developmental Services, Inc.
Noblesville, IN 46062

Jay-Randolph Developmental
Services, Inc.
Portland, IN 47371

Kaiser Home Support Services
New Albany, IN 47150

LEL Home Services, LLC
Indianapolis, IN 46220

LifeDesigns, Inc.
Bloomington, IN 47401

INARF Members

LOGAN Community Resources,
Inc.
South Bend, IN 46624

Mosaic - Northern Indiana
Osceola, IN 46561

New Horizons Rehabilitation, Inc.
Batesville, IN 47006

Paladin, Inc.
Michigan City, IN 46360

Peak Community Services, Inc.
Logansport, IN 46947

Quality Community Services, Inc.
Floyd Knobs, IN 47119

Residential CRF, Inc.
Connersville, IN 47331

RISE, Inc.
Angola, IN 46703

Sycamore Services, Inc.
Danville, IN 46122

The Arc of Wabash County
Wabash, IN 46992

The Village of Merici
Indianapolis, IN 46216

Marshall-Starke Development
Center, Inc.
Plymouth, IN 46563

New Hope of Indiana
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Noble
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Passages, Inc.
Columbia City, IN 46725

Phoenix Community Services, LLC
Anderson, IN 46012

RBR Alliance, Inc.
Corydon, IN 47112

Residential Services, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Southern IN Resource Solutions,
Inc.
Boonville, IN 47601

Tangram, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN 46205

The Arc Southwest Indiana
Princeton, IN 47670

Unity of Indiana
Greenwood, IN 46142

Meridian Health Services
Muncie, IN 47304

New Hope Services, Inc.
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

Opportunity Enterprises, Inc.
Valparaiso, IN 46383

Pathfinder Services, Inc.
Huntington, IN 46750

Putnam County Comprehensive
Services
Greencastle, IN 46135

ResCare, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN 46250

Respite Care Services
Highland, IN 46322

Stone Belt Arc, Inc.
Bloomington, IN 47408

The Arc of Greater Boone County
Lebanon, IN 46052

The Columbus Organization
Indianapolis, IN 46268

Wabash Center, Inc.
Lafayette, IN 47904

ICEArc Members

Achieva Resources
Richmond, IN 47374

Carey Services
Marion, IN 46953

Hillcroft Services
Muncie, IN 47303

KCARC, Knox County Arc
Vincennes, IN 47591

New Star
Schererville, IN 46375

Pathfinder Services
Huntington, IN 46750

Sycamore Services, Inc.
Danville, IN 46122

The Arc of Greater Boone County
Lebanon, IN 46052

The Arc of Vigo County
Terre Haute, IN 47807

ADEC
Bristol, IN 46507

DSI
Columbus, IN 47201

Hopewell Center
Anderson, IN 46013

Marshall Starke Development
Plymouth, IN 46563

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Indianapolis, IN 46219

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Logansport, IN 46947

Tangram
Indianapolis, IN 46205

The Arc of LaGrange County
Howe, IN 46746

The Arc of Wabash County
Wabash, IN 46992

Bi-County Services
Bluffton, IN 46714

Easterseals Arc of Northeast Indiana
Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Jay Randolph Developmental Services
Portland, IN 47371

New Horizons
Batesville, IN 47006

Passages
Columbia City, 46725

Stone Belt
Bloomington, IN 47498

The Arc of Evansville
Evansville, IN 47710

The Arc of Southwest Indiana
Princeton, IN 47670

Wabash Center
Lafayette, IN 47904